

Massachusetts House Minority Leader

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Proudly Representing the 20th Middlesex District



What's Going On At The State House?

December 2008

▶ [Web Page Home](#)

▶ [About Brad Jones](#)

▶ [Republican Caucus](#)

▶ [Issues](#)

▶ [Constituent Services](#)

▶ [News Room](#)

▶ [The District](#)

▶ [Contact Brad Jones](#)

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the final edition of "What's Going on at the State House" for 2008, an e-mail newsletter I write to stay in touch with you and keep you posted on what I'm working on in the Legislature and in the 20th Middlesex District.

I hope you all enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season with your family and friends. Winter blew in fast and furious last month with several rounds of wintry weather. Despite the icy chill around the Commonwealth, things have been heated on Beacon Hill.

There's been much debate, both at the State House and in the news of how to handle the current fiscal situation. While hikes in tolls and taxes and cuts in local aid have been proposed, I believe firmly that we must first rein in the out of control spending before seeking another dime from the already burdened taxpayers.

Two communities in my district were the recipients of good fiscal news last month. Both Reading and North Reading received much needed funds that will be put towards two very good causes including; water conservation and fire prevention.

Additionally, I am pleased to announce yet another outlet for my office to communicate with you. I, along with the members of the Republican caucus in the House will be launching a blog on the 7th of January. I am very excited at the opportunity to share the happenings on Beacon Hill and around the state with you in a more unfiltered manner.

Again, please accept my warmest wishes for a Happy Holiday season and Happy New Year. I hope 2009 is prosperous year for you and your loved ones.

As always, if you have something on your mind that you would like to share, please contact me at my State House office or send me an e-mail. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad".

Poll Question

What is the most important issue facing you and your family in the upcoming year?

[ECONOMY](#)

[JOB SECURITY](#)

[HEALTHCARE](#)

Results will be available in the next issue.

Results from last month's poll question

Given the current state of the economy, will you spend more, less or the same as last year for the holidays?

MORE	0 %
LESS	65 %
SAME	35 %

Local Aid Should be Off the Table

I, along with the entire Republican Caucus stand in a united effort to stand against any cuts that could potentially be made to local aid for FY 2010.

Speaker DiMasi recently announced that local aid may be cut by up to 10 percent next year. However, given the current economic climate, combined with out of control spending habits on Beacon Hill, we, the Republican Caucus call on the Governor and the Democratic-controlled legislature to start cutting the pork, and get its own house in order before announcing cuts to already struggling cities and towns.

Communities across the Commonwealth depend on local aid to fund their budgets. Cities and towns are already making cuts to necessary services in order to stay afloat. Cutting local aid would be detrimental as services that Bay State residents depend on; such as police, fire and education would see the chopping block.

Middleton Officials Briefed on Financial Situation

The state's current financial situation is creating concerns for communities all across the Commonwealth and in the district I represent, including Middleton.

Earlier this month, I, along with Representative Brad Hill and Senator Bruce Tarr met with Middleton officials in order to brief them on what to expect in the upcoming fiscal year. We had the tough job of informing the officials of cuts made by the Governor that would affect the town. Although local aid cuts cannot be made solely by the Governor, he did decrease several grants and accounts, which have the potential to affect local budgeting. The primary focus was on what to expect for fiscal year 2010, relative to local aid.

These accounts include; water and sewer rate relief payments, underground storage tank municipal grants, community policing grants, municipal police grants, among others.

Reading Receives State Fire Prevention Grants

December proved to be a successful month for the Reading, which will be receiving \$7,792 for firefighting equipment and \$4,464.62 for Student Awareness of Fire Education (SAFE) programs from the State.

Through their bravery and their community outreach firefighters are working hard to ensure citizens' safety, and as a member of Reading's State House Delegation, I am proud to support the Reading Fire Department with these grant programs.

These firefighters put their lives on the line everyday to protect the residents of the Reading community. It is our responsibility to make sure they have the equipment to keep them safe while in harm's way. Additionally, fire prevention is extremely important and the more we educate our children, the better off they'll be if ever faced with a life-threatening situation, such as a house fire.

New Funds For North Reading's Ipswich Basin

Last month, new funds were awarded to the town of North Reading. The Ipswich Basin is received \$31,200 through the 2009 Water Conservation Grant Program Awards.

Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Protection Water Conservation Grant Program awards funds to municipalities and public water systems to encourage and enhance local drinking water conservation efforts.

North Reading is highly deserving of this money as the town has a number of initiatives planned.

Those efforts include; a new effort to promote water conservation, reduce peak water demands, among others. I am pleased the state and the town are able to work in a cohesive manner towards a common goal of water conservation.

Up to \$800,000 is expected to be awarded to eligible public water systems annually.

House Republicans to Launch Caucus Blog

I am pleased to announce the launching of "The Capitol View," the new blog for the Republican caucus.

The website will go live on January 7th and will provide Republican members of the House an outlet to get out the Republican message and discuss topics of the day.

"The Capitol View" will allow the Republican members of the House to skip the middle man and go directly to the public with a message.

The website will be updated every day and will include video and audio clips, columns and press releases, as well as other happenings of the day on Beacon Hill or around the state.

To visit the website, go to www.thecapitolviewlive.com starting on January 7th.

Spreading Holiday Cheer

December was a great month around the district as residents in each community prepared for and celebrated the holiday season.

I was fortunate to participate in one of Reading-North Reading's Chamber of Commerce holiday events. I spent an early December Sunday reading holiday stories to children of all ages at the Flint Memorial Library in North Reading.

It was a lot of fun and helped get the children and myself in the holiday spirit. It was certainly a reminder of what the true meaning of the holiday season is and I feel very lucky to have participated in such a community oriented event.