Why government?

READ THE PICTURES • THINK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Government protects rights, provides public services, and addresses shared problems. Taxes help fund these services. Leaders must follow the law.

RIGHTS

Protect freedoms and fair treatment.

SERVICES

Support schools and public libraries.

SAFETY

Prepare for storms and emergencies.

SHARED PROBLEMS

Make decisions about shared needs.



THE GOVERNOR

The governor leads the executive branch, proposes a budget, and signs or vetoes bills. The legislature makes laws; courts interpret them.

Explain: Why should government power be shared?

Government and governor facts: sources A-C in the teacher notes.

Meet the candidates

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3, 2026 • A GOVERNOR'S TERM: 4 YEARS

Name: _____ Date: _____

A candidate seeks office. Compare experience and ideas using evidence.



Maura Healey

Democratic Party

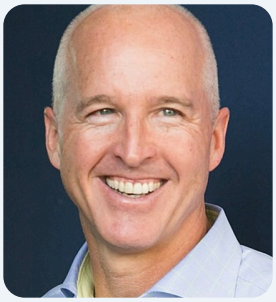
The current governor seeks a second term. She previously served as Massachusetts attorney general. An incumbent already holds the office.



Andrea James

Independent

A challenger seeking the governor's job. She describes experience leading organizations, supervising people, and managing budgets.



Mike Minogue

Republican Party

A challenger seeking the governor's job. He served in the U.S. Army and led Abiomed, a medical-device company.

Underline the incumbent. What experience could help each candidate?

Candidates shown in alphabetical order. Sources B-D; photo credits in teacher notes.

Compare their ideas

HOUSING • SCHOOLS • ENERGY

Name: _____ Date: _____

A stance is a position on an issue. These campaign proposals are not guaranteed results.

	 **Maura Healey**	 **Andrea James**	 **Mike Minogue**
HOMES	Invest in more housing, including homes on some state-owned land.	Support affordable housing and rent stabilization, which limits rent increases.	Speed up housing permits, reduce building rules, and give towns more control.
SCHOOLS	Support preschool, tutoring, career training, and tuition-free community college.	Support fair public-school funding and making the University of Massachusetts free.	Expand charter, technical, and vocational schools and offer more scholarship options.
ENERGY	Reduce energy-bill charges and expand energy efficiency, solar power, and hydropower.	Lower utility costs and move rapidly toward 100% clean energy.	Cut state energy fees, add natural-gas pipelines, and study small nuclear reactors.

Identify one shared goal and one different approach.

Selected positions, simplified from campaign sources E-G; checked October 19, 2026.

Plan. Ask. Listen.

TRY A COMMUNITY BUDGET

Name: _____ Date: _____

Allocate 12 tokens among these public needs. Explain a trade-off: what receives less when another need receives more?

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Schools & libraries

_____ tokens

Road repairs

_____ tokens

Storm safety

_____ tokens

Parks & gardens

_____ tokens

TOTAL: _____ / 12

Defend one spending choice using a community need.

SOURCE CHECK: A candidate's own words are a primary source. This summary is a secondary source. Ask: What evidence supports the plan?

Practice tokens are not real costs or any candidate's budget.

Why government?

READ THE PICTURES • THINK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Government helps people solve problems together. It protects rights and provides services. Taxes help pay for these services.

RIGHTS

Protect people's rights.

SERVICES

Help schools and libraries.

SAFETY

Plan for storms and other dangers.

SHARED PROBLEMS

Solve problems together.



THE GOVERNOR

The governor leads the state's executive branch. The governor suggests a spending plan and signs or rejects bills. Other branches share power.

Tell why a town needs government.

Government and governor facts: sources A-C in the teacher notes.

Meet the candidates

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3, 2026 • A GOVERNOR'S TERM: 4 YEARS

Name: _____ Date: _____

A candidate is a person who wants to be elected.



Maura Healey

Democratic Party

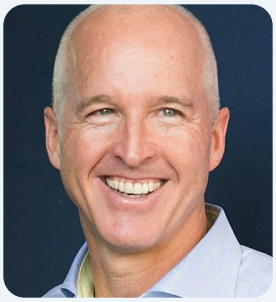
Our governor now. She wants a second term. Before this job, she was a top lawyer for the state.



Andrea James

Independent

She wants to be governor. She has led groups of people and managed their budgets.



Mike Minogue

Republican Party

He wants to be governor. He served in the Army and led a company that makes medical devices.

Circle the current governor. Tell one fact about each candidate.

Candidates shown in alphabetical order. Sources B-D; photo credits in teacher notes.

Compare their ideas

HOUSING • SCHOOLS • ENERGY

Name: _____ Date: _____

A stance is a candidate's view. These are campaign ideas, not promised results.

	 **Maura Healey**	 **Andrea James**	 **Mike Minogue**
HOMES	Build more homes. Use some state land for housing.	Make homes more affordable. Limit how much rents can rise.	Make home-building permits faster. Give towns more control.
SCHOOLS	Support preschool, tutoring, job training, and free community college.	Fund public schools fairly. Make the University of Massachusetts free.	Add charter and job-training schools. Offer more scholarships.
ENERGY	Lower energy charges. Use more solar power and water power.	Lower energy bills. Move toward all clean energy.	Lower energy fees. Add gas pipelines. Study small nuclear plants.

Tell one way their ideas are alike or different.

Selected positions, simplified from campaign sources E-G; checked October 19, 2026.

Plan. Ask. Listen.

TRY A COMMUNITY BUDGET

Name: _____ Date: _____

Share 12 tokens among these projects. Use all 12. A budget is a plan for spending money.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Schools & libraries

_____ tokens

Road repairs

_____ tokens

Storm safety

_____ tokens

Parks & gardens

_____ tokens

TOTAL: _____ / 12

I gave the most to _____ because ...

SOURCE CHECK: A candidate's own words are a primary source. This packet is a summary. Ask: How will you pay for your plan?

Practice tokens are not real costs or any candidate's budget.

Why government?

READ THE PICTURES • THINK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Government helps people. It helps keep us safe. It pays for things we share. Taxes help pay the cost.

RIGHTS

Be fair.

SERVICES

Help us learn.

SAFETY

Keep us safe.

SHARED PROBLEMS

Work together.



THE GOVERNOR

The governor is a state leader. The governor plans how to spend money. The governor can sign bills into law. Other leaders help.

Circle a picture that shows how government helps.

Government and governor facts: sources A-C in the teacher notes.

Meet the candidates

ELECTION DAY: NOVEMBER 3, 2026 • A GOVERNOR'S TERM: 4 YEARS

Name: _____ Date: _____

A candidate is a person who wants the job.



Maura Healey

Democratic Party

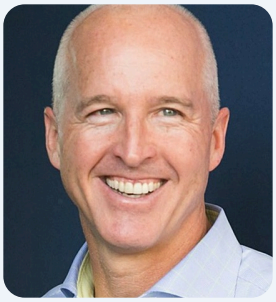
She is our governor now. She wants to keep the job. She was a lawyer.



Andrea James

Independent

She wants to be governor. She has led groups. She has planned how to spend money.



Mike Minogue

Republican Party

He wants to be governor. He was in the Army. He led a company.

Circle our governor now. Point to the other two candidates.

Candidates shown in alphabetical order. Sources B-D; photo credits in teacher notes.

Compare their ideas

HOUSING • SCHOOLS • ENERGY

Name: _____ Date: _____

These are the candidates' ideas. A plan may not happen.

	 **Maura Healey**	 **Andrea James**	 **Mike Minogue**
HOMES	Build more homes.	Limit how much rent can go up.	Make it easier to build homes.
SCHOOLS	Help preschool and tutoring.	Give schools fair funding.	Add more school choices.
ENERGY	Use more sun and water power.	Move to all clean energy.	Add gas pipes. Study nuclear power.

Point to an idea about homes. Tell what it means.

Selected positions, simplified from campaign sources E-G; checked October 19, 2026.

Plan. Ask. Listen.

TRY A COMMUNITY BUDGET

Name: _____ Date: _____

You have 12 tokens. Share them. Use all 12. A budget is a money plan.

1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1

Schools & libraries

tokens

Road repairs

tokens

Storm safety

tokens

Parks & gardens

tokens

TOTAL: _____ / 12

I chose _____ to help people.

ASK: How will your plan help?
LISTEN: Let others speak.
We can have different ideas.

Practice tokens are not real costs or any candidate's budget.

Teacher guide

PRINT ONE NUMBERED SET PER STUDENT

1 **Advanced readers** • Pages 1-4
More precise vocabulary; explain evidence and trade-offs.

2 **Fourth-grade reading target** • Pages 5-8
Short paragraphs; compare ideas and explain a choice.

3 **Second-grade reading target** • Pages 9-12
Short sentences; point, circle, discuss, or dictate.

Suggested 30 minutes

5 min: picture walk. 5 min: governor and candidates. 8 min: read one issue row and compare. 9 min: budget with counters. 3 min: share one fair question.

Answers and look-fors

Government: rights, services, safety, shared problems. Power is shared so one leader does not control everything. Current governor: Maura Healey. Other candidates: Andrea James and Mike Minogue. Compare: all address housing, schools, and energy, but methods differ. Budget: nonnegative whole numbers total 12; any allocation with a relevant reason is acceptable. Moving tokens requires reducing another amount.

Teaching notes

Targets are instructional, not measured Lexile levels. Read names and technical words aloud. Define bill (proposed law), veto (reject), rent, solar, and nuclear energy. Assess reasoning, not political preference. All sets use the same neutral colors and candidate order. MA 3.T1.3 connects government, services, participation, and taxes; state government is an extension.

State seal is used as an educational state symbol. This is not an official government publication.

Sources & image credits

FOR TEACHER REFERENCE

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www.doe.mass.edu — open source • MA DESE, 3.T1.3, printed pp. 53-54.

B. Governor duties and term
www.sec.state.ma.us — open source • Secretary of the Commonwealth. Term: Elected Offices & Terms page.

C. Biography and term beginning in 2023
www.nga.org — open source • National Governors Association.

D. 2026 election candidates and election date
www.sec.state.ma.us — open source • Secretary of the Commonwealth; election: November 3, 2026.

E. Healey campaign: housing, education, energy
maurahealey.com — open source • Linked Housing, Public Education, and Energy Costs pages.

F. James campaign: platform and biography
www.ajforma.com — open source • Also ajforma.com/meet-andrea and homepage utility-cost position.

G. Minogue campaign: platform and biography
minogueforma.com — open source • Also minogueforma.com/meet-mike/.

Image credits

State seal: Massachusetts Design System, full-color seal.

Healey: Governor's Office official portrait, January 2023.

James: campaign biography photograph.

Minogue: campaign portrait reproduced by Fox News.

Photo crops are for layout only. Civic icons are original vector illustrations. Campaign proposals are summarized, not endorsed; the selected issues do not represent complete platforms. Governor and lieutenant governor are elected together on a ticket. Candidate list rechecked October 20, 2026; positions researched October 19, 2026.

Digital source labels are clickable. Keep these reference pages with the master packet.