

Dear IMC-CAD Team Action recipient - Feel free to print/share this sheet with your action group and friends.

Here's How to Fix the Massachusetts State House!

Massachusetts voters deserve a legislature that works for them, not one where their elected representatives must bend to leadership's will or risk loss of pay. Our 2026 Stipend Reform ballot initiative ties reasonable compensation to performance, promoting a more transparent, accountable, and effective legislature. To get this initiative onto the ballot, we need 75,000 signatures from MA voters. With your support, we can deliver a major win for democracy, while building momentum for even more progress.

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Action Summary	<p>Estimated time: 15-30 minutes to read the background information and sign up. The rest of the time depends on how much time you devote to the signature collection between now and November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● If you are unfamiliar with the stipend ballot initiative, please read all the Background Information.● Sign up as a volunteer to collect signatures (in your own community) for this important ballot measure.● Collect those signatures and report your numbers.
Why We Think This is Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Personal Relevance - Moderate - This directly impacts our MA state government which impacts us all● Expanded Implications - Moderate - This is a narrow focus action, but ballot signature collection will be needed for other issues.● Educational Value - High - Most MA voters are unaware of the leadership stipends and of this ballot measure to end them● Impact Potential - High - This reform will be transformational for the Ma Legislature● Urgency - High - We have a limited window of time to collect signatures
Source(s)	Mass Stipend Reform Coalition, ACT On Mass, IMC
Action Details	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sign up: Go to https://www.stipendreform.com/ and complete the short sign-up form on the right side of the screen. Make sure to select the "collect signatures" box.2. Read: Signature Gathering Do's and Don'ts and this information about

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	<p>collecting signatures at shopping centers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Collect: Collect those signatures. You can pick one day/time to collect or go multiple times and to multiple locations.4. Report: When you have finished collecting signatures, complete the form at the bottom of this page to report your signature numbers.5. Contact: If you have questions, email info@stipendreform.com or call Brian Muldoon at (617) 383-4336.
<p>Background Information</p>	<p>Massachusetts Stipend Reform (information from the Stipend Reform Coalition)</p> <p>What's Broken and Why It Matters</p> <p>Massachusetts's system of 'leadership stipends' is an outlier among the 50 states. Out of 200 MA state senators and representatives, 149 receive 'leadership stipends.' Stipends can go upwards of \$119,000 on top of a legislator's base salary (currently \$82,044). Since 2015, the legislature has quadrupled the amount of taxpayer money spent on stipends to \$5.4 million.</p> <p>This centralizes control and stifles dissent. Stipends are doled out at the sole discretion of the Senate President, Speaker of the House, or minority party leaders and can be taken away by them at any time. Removal of stipends has occurred for criticizing the speaker or speaking to the media without permission. Legislators are forced to capitulate to leadership or end up sidelined.</p> <p>The Legislature is unproductive and unresponsive. Massachusetts is last in the country in state legislative effectiveness, passing few substantive bills, and those with little or no debate. The most powerful voices in the Statehouse are those of lobbyists, not those of the public and our representatives. The legislature is also one of the least transparent in the country, often killing bills or advancing omnibus packages with little public notice or oversight.</p> <p>What the Stipend Reform Initiative Will Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Empower legislators to lead with integrity and represent their constituents actively and openly without risking financial retribution.❖ Link compensation to performance by limiting stipends to positions involving significant work and conditioning payment on meeting benchmarks for transparency, accountability, and timeliness of lawmaking.❖ Save taxpayers \$500,000 a year by capping the number and size of stipends.❖ Reduce pay disparity among legislators: Legislators currently paid the least will earn more, making serving possible for more people, and the pay disparity between the lowest and highest-paid legislators will be reduced by over 50%.

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	<p>Why Your Support Matters</p> <p>This initiative will pass if voters get the opportunity in 2026. Polling shows 75% of MA voters support stipend reform. Voters want their legislators to have the freedom and conditions to work for them, not to be controlled and bossed by legislative leaders.</p> <p>To get this initiative onto the ballot, we need 75,000 signatures from MA voters. AND We have just 2 months to gather the signatures. We will be mobilizing volunteers but also need money for professional signature gatherers to fill any gaps.</p> <p>We invite you to be part of making our legislature more effective and accountable.</p> <p>Who We Are</p> <p>Our campaign grows out of the Coalition to Reform Our Legislature (CROL)—a cross-partisan alliance of former lawmakers, civic leaders, and democracy reform champions, including former State Representatives Jay Kaufman and Jonathan Hecht, former ethics commissioner Jeanne Kempthorne, MassGOP Finance Chair Jennifer Nassour, Act On Mass, and Partners in Democracy.</p> <p>When CROL filed its stipend reform bill in the 2025–26 session (HD 4303 / SD 1301), the legislature refused to consider it. That’s why we need to bring this reform directly to the voters. We need your help to make that happen.</p> <p>Massachusetts voters have demanded reform before—and we are still waiting.</p> <p>Let’s not let the Legislature ignore us. Let’s lead. Let’s win.</p> <p>Let’s reform for real</p> <hr/> <p>Additional Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Massachusetts Change the Policies for Legislative Stipends Initiative (2026) (Ballotpedia)● One pager on stipend reform● Beacon Hill’s \$5 Million Stipend Problem Every year (Fiscal Alliance Foundation)● Ballot Initiative Full Text (pdf)● Report: Stipends Not Tied to Legislative Accomplishments● Boston Globe Columnist: Reform “Notorious Leadership Stipends”
Bonus Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Host a “CAD party” and make calls, complete postcards, or perform other actions together. It’s motivating and there is empowerment both in numbers and being with others!● Share this link to SUBSCRIBE TO THE IMC-CAD with everyone you can (we are keeping this subscription free—it’s ok to skip the “Pledge” button that appears).