

A publication of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue's Division of Local Services



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## **DLS Gateway User Survey**

DLS is committed to reviewing and improving the user experience of our local partners in municipal government as they perform essential functions within our DLS Gateway application. To that end, your insights are invaluable in helping us understand how well Gateway meets your needs and where we can make it better.

We're reaching out to you for direct feedback. We've put together a quick survey, and would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Your responses will help us improve DLS Gateway and guide future

enhancements to make it more effective, intuitive, and user-friendly. Thank you for helping us build a tool that better serves you.

Please [click here to take the survey](#).

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## **FY2025 Assessment Update**

This article provides an update on the FY2025 assessment information from the DLS Bureau of Local Assessment. It contains a brief overview of the assessment certification process and data based on municipal submissions as of the end of November of this year.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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## ***Ask DLS: Tax Title Reform - Part 3***

This article is the third part of multi-part series discussing 2024 tax title reform legislation, focusing on process-related changes that affect the collection and assignment of tax titles. It outlines the new requirements for demand notices, notifications of tax title assignments, and procedures for handling unpaid real estate taxes, while also indicating that further details will be covered in upcoming editions of the series.

[Click here to read more.](#)

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## **Tax Rate Status Report**

[View your community's status in the tax rate setting process.](#)

**DLS DATA &  
ANALYTICS**

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City & Town provides updates on the progress of the certifications and the tax rate process. This information is available 24/7 by [clicking here](#).

[Local Aid Estimates & Payments](#)

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**Preliminary Certifications Approved:**  
68

**Final Certification:** 65 (of 73 total)

[Data Visualization Tools](#)

**LA4 (Assessed Values):**  
332 approved (338 submitted)

**LA13 (New Growth):**  
331 approved (337 submitted)

[Municipal Finance Community Datasets](#)

**Tax Rates Approved:** 184

**Balance Sheets Approved:** 210

**Aggregated Free Cash Approved Total:**

\$1,554,930,455

[Municipal Finance Best Practices](#)

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Last month, a number of communities across the Commonwealth held votes on Proposition 2 ½ ballot questions. Did you know that you can access data that shows all ballot question outcomes (overrides/underrides, debt exclusions, capital exclusions) since 1990 [on our website](#)? Choose the “Proposition 2 ½” radial and hit “apply.”

Municipal clerks submit ballot results to DLS and we’ve compiled this data as an informational tool. If you’re a local official with questions related to your community’s information, please contact us at [databank@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:databank@dor.state.ma.us). To learn more about the step-by-step process for submitting ballot results to DLS, please see our [recently posted YouTube webinar on the subject](#).

[Visit our Visualization Page for more helpful data resources!](#)

## LEGAL CORNER

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*Ask the Chief of Municipal Finance Law* occurs virtually every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm.

**[Bookmark the Waiting Room!](#)**

### **BULLETIN 2024-6: Tax Title Reform Bulletin**

The Division of Local Services (DLS) Municipal Finance Law Bureau (MFLB) has issued new Bulletin (BUL) 2024-6. This Bulletin focuses on the recent legislative changes affecting municipal tax title foreclosures. These changes go into effect November 1st, 2024 and all State Tax Forms noted therein will be published and made available on the [DLS website](#) prior to that date.

[BUL-2024-6: Recent Legislation Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024 Tax Title Reform](#)

### **2024 “What’s New in Municipal Law” Presentation and Materials Now Available Online**

We are pleased to announce that the 2024 “What’s New in Municipal Law” court decisions presentation, workshop materials, and discussion summaries are now available online. All of the material can be accessed on the seminar’s website [here](#).

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[View more DLS Guidelines, Opinions, Advisories and FAQs](#)

## MUNICIPAL FINANCE TRAININGS AND RESOURCES

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### **DLS Training Video Now Available: Submitting Proposition 2 ½ Votes Using Gateway Webinar**

DLS has posted the recording of our “Submitting Proposition 2 ½ Vote Using

Gateway” webinar. The webinar shows municipal clerks how to enter Proposition 2 ½ ballot votes into DLS Gateway. This helpful training provides step-by-step guidance for entering overrides, underrides, debt exclusions, and more, ensuring a smooth tax rate setting process.

The [recorded version](#) of the webinar is available on the DLS YouTube channel, along with the [presentation slides](#). Additionally, the following resources were highlighted during the webinar: [Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Questions Requirements and Procedures](#), [Levy Limits: A Primer on Proposition 2 ½](#) and the [Proposition 2 ½ video series](#). Please email [dlsgateway@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:dlsgateway@dor.state.ma.us) with questions and concerns you may have with submitting Proposition 2 ½ votes.

Be sure to bookmark the [Municipal Finance Training & Resource Center](#) page and subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to stay updated when new items are added. Is there something you’d like to see added to the training & resource center? Please email [DLSTraining@dor.state.ma.us](mailto:DLSTraining@dor.state.ma.us). We’d love to hear from you!

[Bookmark the DLS Municipal Finance Training & Resource Center](#)

## DLS PARTNERS NEWS

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### **Announcing the 2025 Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program**

The Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) is pleased to offer the Municipal Cybersecurity Awareness Grant Program (MCAGP) for its sixth consecutive year!

The MCAGP is **open to all local government agencies** (cities & towns, public school districts, libraries, police departments, fire departments, planning commissions, and municipally-run utility departments and airports) and members of the PERAC Retirement System. Our program improves overall cybersecurity posture by helping organizations mitigate their human risk. EOTSS’ Office of Municipal and School Technology (OMST) procures the user licenses and manages the program, making it free for participating organizations.

For the second year, we are partnering with KnowBe4, a leader in cybersecurity training to deliver:

- Easy user management using **Active Directory Integration**
- Required EOTSS training modules, and access to the **world's largest library** of always-fresh awareness training content for furthering education
- Enrollment in EOTSS **simulated phishing campaigns**, and access to thousands of additional customizable phishing templates with unlimited usage for your organization
- **Assessments to gauge the proficiency** of your users in security knowledge and security culture attitudes.

As a prerequisite for joining the program, participating organizations must demonstrate leadership buy-in, organization commitment to participate, and assign a local coordinator who will collaborate with OMST to administer the program.

Additional details on the 2025 MCAGP and a short video are available on our [website](#). The application period is now open and can be accessed [here](#). This continues to be a competitive grant program, the application will remain open only until all licenses have been assigned. Please email any questions to [cyberawarenessgrant@mass.gov](mailto:cyberawarenessgrant@mass.gov).

We look forward to partnering with you on this important initiative!

### **Latest Issue of *Buy the Way* Now Available**

Don't miss [Issue #28 of \*Buy the Way\*](#), the official magazine of the Operational Services Division (OSD).

To get news and updates from OSD delivered to your inbox, please contact us at [OSDoutreach@mass.gov](mailto:OSDoutreach@mass.gov).

## **QUICK LINKS**

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Below are some more helpful online resources brought to you by DLS.

- [Municipal Finance Tools, Templates and Calculators](#)
- [Events and Training Calendar](#)
- [DLS YouTube Library](#)



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***City & Town* is a publication of the Division of Local Services.**

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