



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2010

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**Common Cause Massachusetts to Present e-Government Award
to 180 Municipalities, Releases Municipal Transparency Report**

BOSTON – Common Cause Massachusetts released the findings of its annual survey of municipal websites today and will present its 2010 e-Government Award to 180 cities and towns next Tuesday, March 16th at 11am in hearing room A-1 at the State House. The survey and ceremony coincide with the national initiative known as “Sunshine Week” in which media outlets and others address issues of governmental transparency.

Municipalities who post their governing body’s minutes and an agenda, their budget, their bylaws, and, if applicable, their town meeting warrant and results will receive the 2010 e-Government Award and are listed below.

Those who additionally post a year’s archive of minutes and agendas, their calendar, their zoning bylaws, their school committee’s minutes and agenda, and the minutes and agenda for another board or committee will receive the award with distinction and are bolded.

*Acton, Agawam, **Amesbury**, Amherst, **Andover**, **Arlington**, Ashburnham, Ashby, **Ashland**, Attleboro, Avon, Ayer, **Barnstable**, Becket, **Bedford**, **Bellingham**, Belmont, Billerica, **Bolton**, Boston, **Bourne**, **Boxborough**, **Boylston**, **Braintree**, **Brewster**, Brockton, **Brookline**, **Burlington**, **Cambridge**, Carlisle, **Charlton**, **Chatham**, **Chelmsford**, **Chelsea**, **Chicopee**, Chilmark, **Cohasset**, **Concord**, **Dartmouth**, **Dedham**, Dennis, Douglas, **Dover**, Dracut, Dudley, Dunstable, **Duxbury**, **East Longmeadow**, **Eastham**, **Easton**, Edgartown, Egremont, Essex, **Everett**, **Falmouth**, Fitchburg, **Foxborough**, **Framingham**, Franklin, **Freetown**, **Gardner**, Georgetown, **Gill**, Gloucester, Grafton, Great Barrington, Groton, Halifax, **Hamilton**, Harvard, **Harwich**, Haverhill, **Hingham**, Holden, Holliston, Holyoke, **Hopkinton**, Hubbardston, Hudson, Ipswich, **Kingston**, **Lakeville**, Lancaster, Lenox, Leominster, Lexington, **Littleton**, Longmeadow, **Lowell**, Lunenburg, Malden, Mansfield, **Marblehead**, Marlborough, **Marshfield**, **Maynard**, Medfield, Medway, Melrose, **Methuen**, **Millbury**, Milton, Montague, Monterey, **Nantucket**, **Needham**, **New Bedford**, Newburyport, **Newton**, North Adams, **North Andover**, North Brookfield, **North Reading**, Northampton, Northborough, Northfield,*



Oak Bluffs, Orange, Orleans, Otis, Paxton, Peabody, Pembroke, Pepperell, Plympton, Princeton, Reading, Rockland, Rockport, Salem, Salisbury, Sandwich, Saugus, Scituate, Seekonk, Sharon, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Somerville, South Hadley, Southampton, Southborough, Southwick, Spencer, Springfield, Sterling, Stow, Sudbury, Sunderland, Sutton, Taunton, Topsfield, Truro, Upton, Uxbridge, Walpole, Waltham, Wareham, Warwick, Watertown, Wayland, Wellesley, Wellfleet, Wenham, West Boylston, West Springfield, Westborough, Westford, Westminster, Weston, Westwood, Weymouth, Wilbraham, Williamstown, Wilmington, Winchester, Woburn, Worcester, Wrentham, Yarmouth.

“We are pleased to be able to honor over half of Massachusetts cities and towns this year,” said Common Cause Massachusetts’ Executive Director Pam Wilmot. “Many communities rose to the challenge and significantly improved their websites over the past year. By making it easier to obtain important information online, citizens will be empowered to actively participate in their local governments.”

Common Cause Massachusetts launched this project in 2006. At that time, only 24 communities met the campaign’s minimum standards and posted essential governance records. This year, 97 will receive the basic award, and 83 will receive the award with distinction, making 180 communities in total, seven-and-a-half times more than the original 24.

In addition to the awards presented, Common Cause released a full survey of the Internet presence of all 351 cities and towns. 25 communities, many of them small towns, had no website at all. 23 municipalities have websites but none of the documents posted. 20 communities came very close to earning an award and only had one document missing.

“The Internet is an inexpensive channel to get information to residents. Posting these key records takes only minutes and costs almost nothing,” said Wilmot. “Communities that make this information available on the web are providing an important service to their citizens and we are ecstatic that we are able to acknowledge them.”

For more information, go to www.commoncause.org/egov10.

ABOUT COMMON CAUSE

Common Cause Massachusetts is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, government watchdog, dedicated to citizen participation in an open, honest, and accountable government. An independent, member-supported organization, Common Cause has more than 200,000 members nationwide and 10,000 in Massachusetts.

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