



## ML Strategies Government Affairs Update

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### The Week That Was (May 9-13)

**Highlights: Foreshadowing a redistricting court battle, and Sen. Brown gets another challenger**

#### Redistricting

Under a Congressional redistricting plan released by Fair Districts Mass, incumbents would be placed in the same districts and Democratic strongholds like Lawrence and New Bedford would be divided, creating political uncertainty in seats that have been reliably Democratic for years. Rep. Michael Moran (D-Brighton) sees a court battle ahead, noting that, "unless we use their map, they're suing us."

#### Brown v. Warren?

Newton Mayor Setti Warren [announced](#) that he would enter the 2012 Senate race against freshman Sen. Scott Brown. Warren's emergence as a Senate candidate drew heavy media coverage, and his connections with Sen. John Kerry and praise from Gov. Deval Patrick help position him as the establishment candidate for the Democrats in their uphill battle to unseat Brown..

### What to Watch (May 16-20)

**Highlights: DiMasi goes on trial, councilors debate at the Constitutional Convention**

#### Monday, May 16

- The trial of former House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi and two co-defendants, who face corruption charges surrounding a software contract, continues this week.
- A public hearing will be held to discuss Governor Patrick's health care payment reform bill (H 1849), which the Governor would like on his desk by the fall although House leadership has indicated that it could take longer.

#### Tuesday, May 17

- The Joint Committee on Transportation will hold an oversight hearing with MassPort officials to get a sense of current operations at the agency.
- Officials from First Wind, Shire and EMC Corporation will join moderator and Boston Globe columnist Scott Kirsner for an innovation forum hosted by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.
- The Joint Committee on Financial Services hears bills related to long-term care insurance,

ambulance services and dental contracts. A bill filed by Sen. Harriette Chandler's would create a group long-term care statute. Rep. James Cantwell sponsors a controversial proposal to alter the way ambulance service companies are paid.

Wednesday, May 18

- The Senate Ways & Means Committee, chaired by Sen. Steven Brewer, releases its fiscal 2012 budget proposal during a rare executive session.
- President Barack Obama will visit Boston for a political fundraiser at the Boston Center for the Arts in the South End. The visit is part of the president's early fundraising push for his re-election campaign.
- The Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, co-chaired by Rep. Michael Kane and Sen. James Welch, will hold a hearing on 14 bills dealing with land use.

Thursday, May 19

- The Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development plans to release the April unemployment rate and jobs report.
- Jim Flaherty, Canada's minister of finance, is the keynote speaker Thursday at the New England Economic Partnership's spring economic outlook conference. Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, will offer a U.S. economic forecast.
- A MassINC-sponsored panel discussion is planned for Thursday on steps the state must take to meet the 80 percent emissions reduction goal laid out in the Global Warming Solutions Act. Boston Globe columnist Derrick Jackson will moderate the panel.
- The Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development, co-chaired by Rep. Cheryl Coakley-Rivera and Sen. Daniel Wolf, will host its first hearing of the new legislative session focusing on 18 bills related to workers compensation insurance and benefits.

Friday, May 20

- Massachusetts Life Sciences Center President Susan Windham-Bannister will address ongoing efforts by the state to fund life science companies despite strained financial resources. Her remarks will be featured as part of Nixon Peabody's sixth annual stem cell conference labeled "2011: The Stem Cell Odyssey Continues."

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