

11/14/2022 [AllUnit] Good News!

Dear colleagues,

We are so pleased to let you know two big pieces of good news.

First, we passed the Fair Share Amendment!! We won about \$2 billion in new revenue ***every year*** to support public education and public transportation. Question 1 was conceived in the MSP office on our campus about 20 years ago, and we're thrilled that Massachusetts now has a more progressive tax structure that will meet more needs in our community. At the same time, Question 4 won a resounding victory, protecting immigrants' access to drivers' licenses. And we elected almost all of labor's endorsed candidates to statewide and local offices. Many MSP members worked hard on these campaigns – **THANK YOU!** We are already getting questions from unions and progressive groups in other states wanting to know how to replicate our victory.

Second, our raises have *finally* been signed into law!! The Massachusetts House and Senate passed the joint Economic Development bill last week, and the Governor signed it on Friday afternoon. The bill includes full retroactive pay back to July 2020, if you were on the UMass payroll then and remain on payroll now. The contracts that we signed in April are finally funded.

MSP will work with the UMass central administration to make sure the funds are received and processed as quickly as possible, and we'll let you know when we have a firm date to expect the money in your paycheck. This should make the holidays much happier for MSP members! When the raises are processed, if you've been on the payroll since June 2020, you will see an increase in your base salary of slightly more than 6.5 percent (which will remain going forward), as well as a retroactive one-time payment of approximately nine percent of your annual salary.

If you're one of the people who reached out to your legislators about our contract funding, thank you! And please take a moment to thank them for all of their advocacy on our behalf, especially Senator Jo Comerford (jo.comerford@masenate.gov) and Rep. Mindy Domb (mindy.domb@mahouse.gov).

In solidarity,
Eve and Marc