



Doughnuts with Your Delegation February 16 – March 16, 2018



MACDC is inviting all our members to once again participate in our Annual **Doughnuts with Your Delegation** Campaign. These meetings are a terrific way to promote our shared Policy Agenda and to discuss important local issues impacting your work. These meetings also foster strong, long-term relationships with your state representatives and senators – relationships that are key to winning legislative and budget campaigns. And it's a great opportunity for community leaders to get to know their legislators.

This year's Campaign will take place from February 16th to March 16th, 2018, during which time MACDC members from around Massachusetts will be hosting their state legislators to share food and information. Don't miss out!

We are providing you with six easy steps to host your delegation, a sample letter to invite your legislators, talking points for the meeting and a summary of MACDC's three Policy Priorities.

Contact Pam Bender (pamelab@macdc.org or 617-379-5925) for more information and assistance with your meeting.

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Doughnuts with Your Delegation **How to Hold a Legislative Breakfast in 6 Easy Steps**

1. Start planning about a month ahead by picking a date for the meeting between February 16th and March 16th, when your key board and staff members can attend. Traditionally legislators are in their districts on Fridays, so this might be the best day of the week to host your meeting.
2. **Invite your legislators.** Send your legislators a letter inviting them to meet with your staff and board members to learn about the work you are doing in their district - either by traditional mail, or by email. (See sample letter.) Follow up with a phone call. When you call the front desk, ask who handles the legislator's schedule, and ask to speak to them. If neither the legislator, nor their staff reply, identify someone in your organization who has a relationship with that legislator and have them call.
3. **Determine the agenda.** A core focus of the agenda should be MACDC's Policy Agenda (see attached.) By having CDCs across the state discussing the same issues at the same time, we amplify our voices and multiply our power. You should also think about what programs, projects or issues in your community that you want to discuss with them. **You will want to highlight the work that the Community Investment Tax Credit is funding as extending the CITC is one of our priorities this year.** Will you need help or support from your legislators on something this year? Is there an issue or program that relates to the committee on which your legislator serves? What work are you particularly proud of? Is there any way you can help your legislators? Also, make sure to thank legislators for any help they have given you over the past year.
4. **Determine who should attend:** Take time to think about who from your staff, board and community should be at the meeting. It doesn't have to be a large group – 8-20 people is ideal. Give everyone a role in the meeting. Make sure people are informed about their issue and comfortable talking about it. Hold a "practice" meeting if necessary.
5. **Be Prepared:** Assign someone to make the coffee, buy the doughnuts (or bagels or muffins), take a group photo and have a good meeting!
6. **Follow up:** After the meeting send a letter thanking your legislators, providing them with any information they may have requested or reminding them of any requests you had for them. Also, please tweet about the meeting and post on Facebook. Be sure to let MACDC know about the meeting, email us the photo and how your legislators responded to MACDC's Policy Agenda. We need friends and leaders in the legislature!

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For more information and assistance with your meeting

Your CDC Letterhead

DATE

The Honorable
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative [or Senator]:

The [YOUR CDC'S NAME] would like to invite you, along with all the legislators from our area, to join our board, community and staff members for breakfast on [DATE OF MEETING AND LOCATION] to discuss the important work [your CDC's name here] is doing in our community and to discuss ways we can work together.

We think that this will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet with your constituents. It will give you a chance to become familiar (*or, if your legislators are already familiar with your organization, stay current*) with our organization and all our goals and initiatives, as well as our policy priorities for 2018. We are also very excited to share with you all of our recent accomplishments.

We are a member of the Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations (MACDC), a state-wide membership association of more than 88 community development corporations (CDCs) and non-profit organizations. As a MACDC member, we are advocating for a policy agenda that enhances the quality of life in local communities across the state. We are eager to discuss these issues with you, including affordable housing, small business development, extending the Community Investment Tax Credit and other community economic development programs.

On behalf of all of [YOUR CDC'S NAME] members, we look forward to seeing you on [DATE OF MEETING]. We respectfully ask that you confirm your attendance at this meeting by [DATE TWO WEEKS BEFORE MEETING].

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Board Chair



Doughnuts with Your Delegation Talking Points

These meetings offer your organization an opportunity to both talk about some of your local projects and programs as well as policy issues currently being considered at the State House. You can structure the agenda however you see fit, but we ask that you highlight the following priorities, all of which come from the MACDC Policy Agenda approved by our board of directors:

1. Ask your State Senator to support the Housing Bond Bill ((H.4134) which will ensure the continuation of the State's affordable housing programs by authorizing \$1.7 billion for affordable housing production and preservation over the next 5 years. *Give them the [MACDC Housing Bond Bill Fact Sheet](#) from our website and thank your State Representatives for passing the Housing Bond Bill*
2. Ask your State Senator to support the language, now in the Housing Bond Bill, will that will extend and expand the Community Investment Tax Credit (CITC) through 2025. Tell them about all the work the CITC funds allow your CDC to accomplish. *Give them the [MACDC CITC Fact Sheet](#) from our website and thank your State Representatives for including the CITC in the Housing Bond Bill.*
3. Ask legislators to support funding of the Small Business Technical Assistance Program at least at \$2 million in FY 2019. This program provides essential services to entrepreneurs and small businesses. *Give them the [MACDC SBTA Fact Sheet](#) from our website.*
4. Optional: You may want to discuss other issues that are particularly important to your organization, such as asking legislators to:
 - a. Support [An Act To Sustain Community Preservation Revenue](#) which will adjust the fees collected at the Registries of Deeds so that all current CPA communities will receive a 50% first round match.
 - b. Support [Great Neighborhoods legislation](#) (comprehensive zoning reform): An Act Building for the Future of the Commonwealth and An Act Promoting Housing and Sustainable Development.