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 THE SALEM NEWS

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Incumbent deflects challenge from Moulton



Salem residents cast their ballots in the Massachusetts Democratic and Republican Primary at the Community Life Center in Salem on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

North Shore voters turn out for state primary races

By Michael McHugh and Caroline Enos
» Staff Writers

Voters turned out across the region Tuesday to decide primary races for U.S. Senate, Congress and governor, setting the stage for general election showdowns in November.

In the Senate race, the Democratic primary was a heated contest between incumbent Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Seth Moulton, of Salem. It appeared as of Tuesday evening that Markey had won that race.

Democrat Gov. Maura Healey is unopposed, but on the Republican ticket, the primary race is between GOP hopefuls Mike Minogue and Brian Shortsleeve.



Salem residents cast their ballot in the Massachusetts Democratic/Republican Primary at the Community Life Center in Salem on Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026.

By Christian M. Wade
» Statehouse Reporter

BOSTON — Incumbent U.S. Sen. Ed Markey easily fended off a challenge from Rep. Seth Moulton in Tuesday's Democratic primary in a nationally watched U.S. Senate race framed around generational change in Washington, D.C. politics.

Markey, 80, a third-term senator who was first elected to Congress in 1976, was leading Moulton with more than 73% of the vote when the Associated Press called the race shortly after polls closed at 8 p.m.

It's the second time the Malden Democrat has survived a formidable challenge from a younger candidate.

In the 2020 elections he defeated U.S. Rep. Joe Kennedy II, becoming the first to defeat a member of the state's storied political family in a statewide race.

Markey now will face Republican John Deaton, a cryptocurrency attorney and advocate, making his second run for U.S. Senate. Deaton was unopposed on Tuesday's GOP primary ballot.

"I'm feeling great, and optimistic," Deaton, of Bolton, told reporters at a polling station Tuesday. "I know I'm trying to climb that big blue wall in Massachusetts, but I really do think people are ready for someone like me who's nonpartisan, who doesn't have loyalty to a person or a party or an agenda, who just wants to offer solutions to the problems people are facing every day."

The marquee Democratic Senate primary race was viewed, in part, as a test of how Democratic voters view generational change in Washington politics two years after former President Joe Biden's embarrassing departure from the presidential race.

Moulton, 47, made Markey's age a key issue on the campaign trail and frequently



U.S. Sen. Ed Markey won the Democratic primary against Congressman Seth Moulton.

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Drover wraps up two decades of substance abuse prevention in Peabody

By Caroline Enos
» Staff Writer

PEABODY — A longtime advocate for substance abuse prevention in the city retired at the end of August, but her work will continue.

Sandi Drover has retired after serving as the outreach coordinator for the Healthy Peabody Collaborative for nearly 18 years.

She's seen the collaborative go from being a branch of the Peabody Police Department to a part of the city's new Social Services Division, which formally became its own standalone city department in May.

With the division's director Sara Grinnell, Drover has helped build a substance abuse prevention coalition from the ground up that empowers youth with education around substance abuse, rather than just reasons not to use drugs, and supports those struggling with addiction.



Peabody Mayor Edward Bettencourt hands a plaque to Outreach Coordinator for the Healthy Peabody Collaborative Sandi Drover to celebrate her retirement following 23 years of dedicated service to the city of Peabody during the unveiling of her PORTRAITS OF PEABODY PhotoVoice Project inside Peabody City Hall on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2026.

"In the almost 18 years of my role as the outreach coordinator, we stayed true to our mission and goals, and I was afforded so many wonderful opportunities to affect change on an individual level," Drover said.

She started with the city 24 years ago, working as a

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Group gets \$30K to encourage tree planting

By Michael McHugh
» Staff Writer

SALEM — The Healey-Driscoll administration recently awarded Salem Sound Coastwatch with a \$30,000 grant to conduct outreach and recruit residents to have trees planted on their property as part of a statewide effort to expand urban tree canopies.

A total of \$700,000 was awarded through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to municipalities and nonprofit organizations to expand and care for tree canopy in gateway cities across the state.

Salem Sound Coastwatch was one of six nonprofit organizations to receive funding through the Greening the Gateway Cities Partnership Grant Program to

work directly with residents and business owners to identify locations for free trees and support long-term tree stewardship.

Through the program, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) works with residents and business owners to plant free trees and ensure newly planted trees receive the care they need to grow and thrive.

Salem Sound Coastwatch will work with DCR to conduct outreach and generate interest in the program, recruit residents to have trees planted on their property, and identify high-priority planting locations throughout the designated planting zone in both Salem and Lynn.

According to Salem Sound Coastwatch executive director

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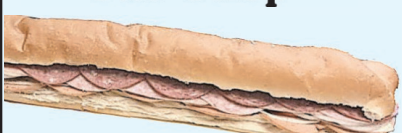
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