

Michelle Wu is elected Boston mayor

2021 | Grade 4 · Explain with evidence

Words to know

election — a process in which people vote to choose leaders or decide questions

represent — speak or act for others

community — people connected by a place or something they share

Look closely



Modern topic illustration created for Massachusetts History Explorers. It is not a historical artifact.

Read the story

Michelle Wu became the first woman and first person of color elected mayor of Boston. Her election changed representation in city leadership. Kim Janey had already served as acting mayor.

The word elected matters. Janey was Boston's first woman and first Black acting mayor. Accurate first claims honor both stories rather than treating acting service and an election as the same event.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. State the main idea. Support it with two details from the reading.
2. Explain a change or challenge described in the text. Which words support your answer?
3. Use one vocabulary word in a new sentence about this event.
4. What can the image and caption help explain? What can they not tell you?

Follow-up reading: Maura Healey becomes governor

2023

Maura Healey took office as Massachusetts' first elected woman governor. Jane Swift had earlier served as acting governor. Healey's election was also a milestone for openly lesbian leadership.

Healey and Oregon's Tina Kotek were elected in 2022 as the first openly lesbian governors in the United States. Distinguish election from taking office and avoid erasing earlier acting governors.

Compare the two readings. Explain one similarity or difference using a detail from each. Their order does not prove that one caused the other.

Teacher guide & source trail

Original classroom adaptation. Suggested reading levels are instructional choices, not standardized readability certifications. Use professional judgment and learner feedback.

ELA practice: RI.4.1: refer to details; RI.4.2: main idea and summary; RI.4.3: explain events; RI.4.7: interpret visual information; W.4.2 and SL.4.1: explain and discuss.

These tasks support selected skills in the [Massachusetts 2017 ELA framework](#); they do not establish mastery of an entire standard.

Answer guidance

Factual anchor: Michelle Wu became the first woman and first person of color elected mayor of Boston. Her election changed representation in city leadership. Kim Janey had already served as acting mayor. The word elected matters. Janey was Boston's first woman and first Black acting mayor. Accurate first claims honor both stories rather than treating acting service and an election as the same event.

Accept accurate main ideas and explanations supported by the text. Vocabulary meanings are in the opening word bank. For picture questions, use the caption and credit below; distinguish what is visible from what is inferred. For comparison, accept a specific connection supported by both readings. Do not require personal accounts of trauma.

Continue the inquiry

[Research source for this event ↗](#)

[Research source for follow-up ↗](#)

[Event page, accessible HTML reading, and vocabulary game ↗](#)

Image: Original site illustration.

[Image source and rights record ↗](#)

The PDF contains selectable English text and embedded fonts. For adjustable text and browser reading tools, use the event's [HTML page](#). External sources may need adult guidance.