

Maura Healey becomes governor

2023 | Grade 2 · Read & notice

Words to know

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

represent — speak or act for others

rights — freedoms and protections people are entitled to

Look closely



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

Read the story

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.

Think, talk, and show evidence

1. What happened in this reading? Tell one fact.
2. Who or what is this reading mostly about?
3. Choose a word from the word bank. Explain it in your own words.
4. Look at the picture and its caption. What does it help you notice? Is it from the time of the event?

Follow-up reading: A gene-editing medicine is approved

2023

U.S. regulators approved the first treatment using CRISPR gene editing. Massachusetts companies helped develop it for certain patients with sickle cell disease. The approval marked an important medical step.

How are the two readings alike or different? Tell a partner one connection. Which event came first?

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.2.1: ask and answer questions; RI.2.2: identify a main topic; RI.2.7: use images and words; W.2.2 and SL.2.1: 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: 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.

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.