



# Research in Action: Making a Local Impact with Boards and Commissions

**A Conversation with April English, Chief Secretary,  
Boards and Commissions, Office of Governor Healey**



**Sept 25th, 2025**



**2-3 pm**



**Zoom**



**April English**

**Chief Secretary, Boards and  
Commissions, Office of Governor Healey**



**Eleonora Villegas-Reimers**

*Professor, Wheelock*

**Former board member, MA Department  
of Early Education and Care**



**Harold Cox**

*Professor, SPH*

**Member, MA Public Health Council, former  
advisory member on the MA Special  
Commission on Local and Regional Public  
Health**



**Kevin Lang**

*Professor, CAS*

**Board member, Advisory Council for the  
Advancement of Representation in  
Education**

**Moderated by**



**Jim Curley**

**Director of State Relations,  
BU Government and Community Affairs**



**Wheelock College of Education & Human Development**  
Strategic Partnerships & Community Engagement



**Arts & Sciences**



**School of  
Public Health**



## Research in Action: Making a Local Impact with Boards and Commissions

Boston University is honored to host April English, Chief Secretary for Boards and Commissions in the Office of Governor Healey, for a virtual webinar to provide insights into the process of applying to and serving on boards and commissions at the state level. Secretary English will be joined by a panel of BU faculty with firsthand experience in these roles—Eleonora Villegas-Reimers (Wheelock), Harold Cox (SPH), and Kevin Lang (CAS)—for an engaging discussion on the impact and significance of board and commission service. The conversation will be moderated by Jim Curley, Director of State Relations, Government and Community Affairs.

With uncertainty at the federal level, serving on a state board or commission can provide BU faculty with opportunities to influence state policy, ensuring that their expertise can shape decisions where it matters most.

### Why Serve on a Board or Commission?

Serving on a state board or commission is a unique opportunity to bridge research and practice and to directly shape policy while advancing professional growth. These advisory bodies provide a platform to:

- **Make an Impact** – Contribute expertise in research, innovation, and education to inform state policies and decision-making.
- **Advance Professional Growth** – Gain official recognition through a gubernatorial appointment, highlighting your leadership and expertise.
- **Build Strategic Relationships** – Engage with agency officials, gain insights into emerging programs and initiatives, and help shape future policy agendas at the state level.

There are over 750 state boards and commissions in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, offering numerous opportunities to get involved. Explore them [here](#) to find the ones that align with your expertise and interests, whether for immediate or future opportunities.