

# THE WEEKLY WRAP UP

A report from Town Administrator Lisa Wong

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**SELECTBOARD, 7 p.m.**  
Hybrid at Senior Center

Tuesday, February 18

Tuesday, March 4

Tuesday, March 18

Saturday, March 1 at 10am

View all agendas:  
[www.southhadley.org/  
agendacenter](http://www.southhadley.org/agendacenter)

## CIVIL RIGHTS

The Attorney General's Civil Rights Division enforces & protects the civil rights and liberties of all people in Mass.

[www.mass.gov/protecting-civil-rights](http://www.mass.gov/protecting-civil-rights)

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society  
<https://blackhistorymonth.gov>

**History Matters. Lives Matter.**  
<https://websites.umass.edu/pvhn-blackhistory>

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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## State and Federal Updates

### State

The Municipal Empowerment Act legislation has been filed by the Governor. The bill is similar to the one filed in the last legislative session with provisions to improve procurement, provide new property tax exemptions for seniors, allowing for more local option revenues, and make permanent the ability for public bodies to hold remote and hybrid meetings (the current open meeting law regarding this expires at the end of March 2025. There are some changes such a provision to repeal a law limiting districts from starting in-house school bus services.

[www.mass.gov/municipal-empowerment-act](http://www.mass.gov/municipal-empowerment-act)

### Federal

The broad federal funding freeze issued on January 27 has been temporarily blocked by a US District Court judge. The directive would affect loan, grant and financial assistance programs from the federal government, including funds for state and local governments, such as Community Development Block Grants, school meals, and health, education, public safety and climate programs. The court order DOES NOT prohibit agencies from pausing access to funds. The Town is monitoring the impact of this on operations and services.

### A message from Town Administrator Lisa Wong:

Many events happening in our professional and personal lives, including social, economic, health and political issues, have a very real impact on people's lives, families and communities - affecting our sense of safety and identity and belonging.

Diversity of heritage, experiences, and beliefs have and will continue to be a part of who we are. Let's choose civility, allyship, and productive discourse as the foundations of our community.