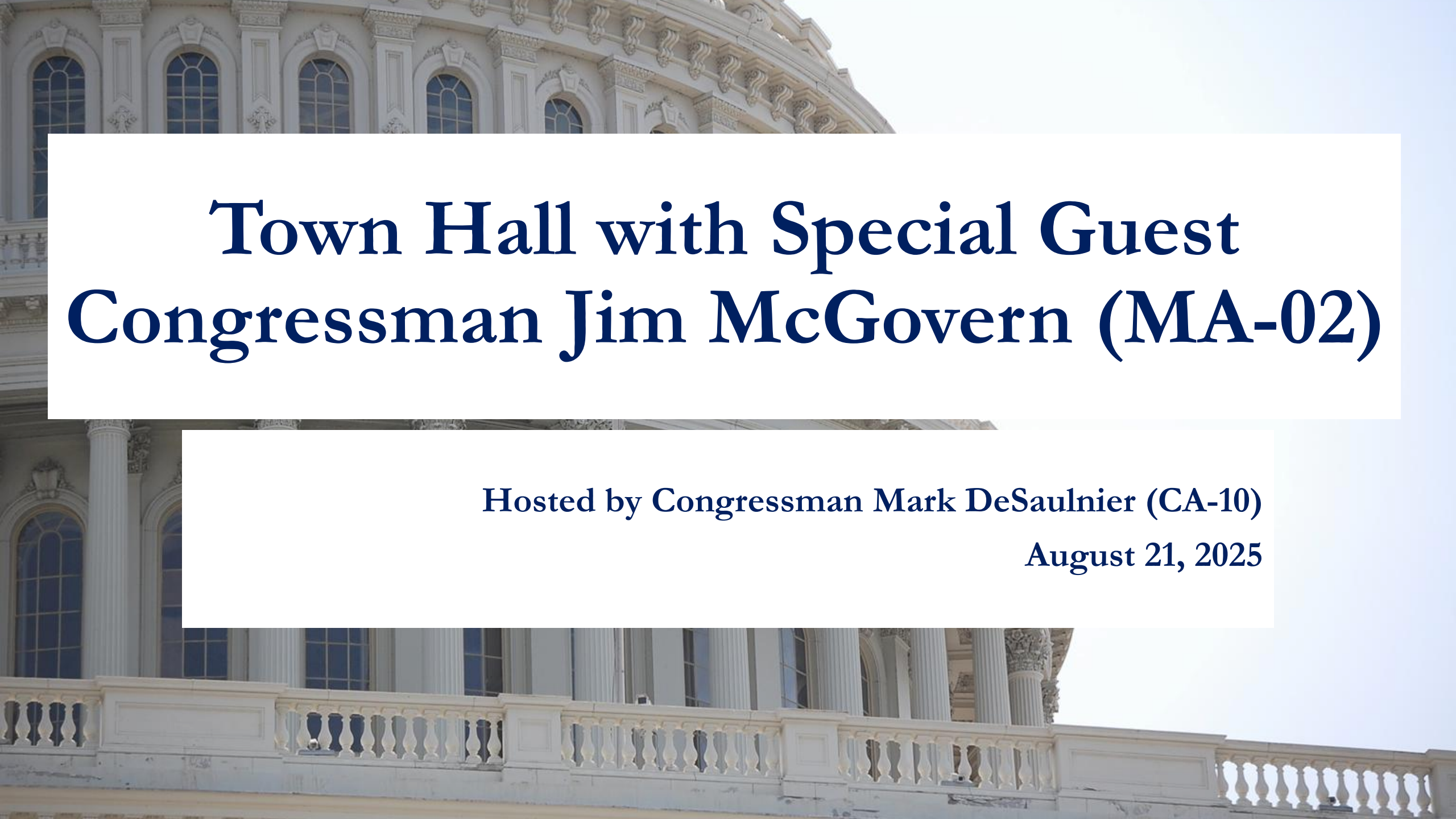




Town Hall with Special Guest Congressman Jim McGovern (MA-02)

Hosted by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10)

August 21, 2025

House Ethics: Congressional vs. Campaign Activity

- Members of Congress are governed by the House Code of Official Conduct, which includes standards for whether, how, when, and where Members may engage in campaign activity.
 - This town hall is being hosted in our official capacity as members of the U.S. House of Representatives, not as candidates in a campaign. Therefore, House Rules prevent us from:
 - Solicitating, receiving, and accepting campaign contributions.
 - Making political endorsements.
 - Directing attendees to websites, resources, or events created or operated by a campaign or any campaign-related entity, including political parties and campaign committees.

You can learn more about the House Code of Official Conduct and how it relates to this event here:



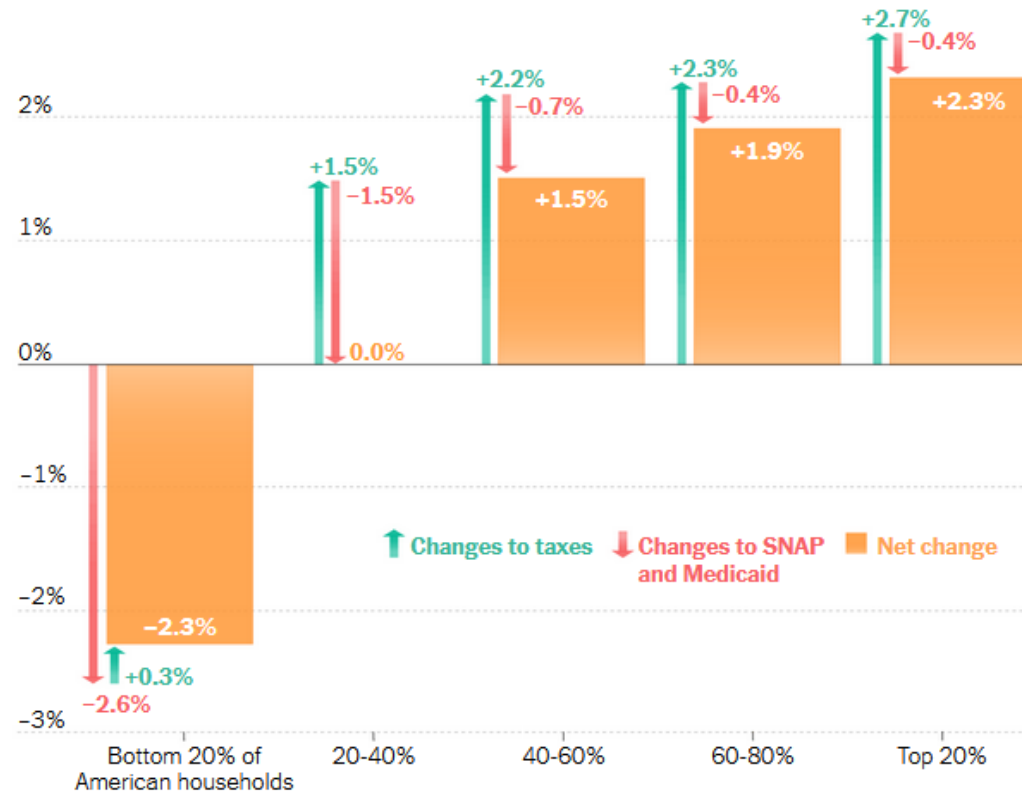
Recent Federal Updates

- Last month, Republicans rammed through a budget bill that will harm tens of millions of Americans and further increase inequality. The bill strips health care from 10 million Americans, takes school lunches from more than 18.3 million children, increases the national debt by more than \$3 trillion, and imposes other harmful policies, all to give \$1 trillion in tax cuts for the richest Americans.

The More You Make, the More You Benefit

The bill's impact on household finances, by income quintile

3% increase in household income



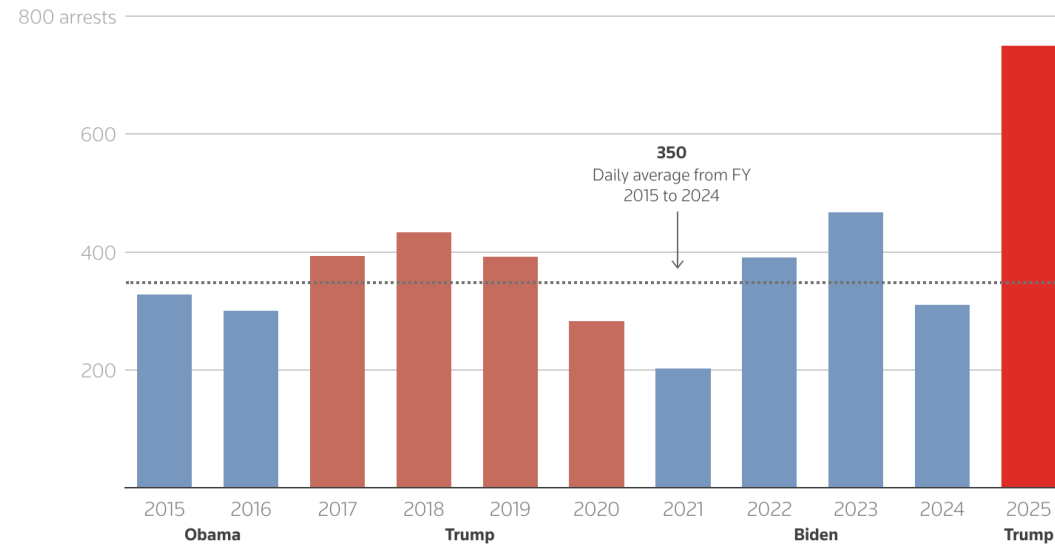
Source: The Budget Lab and C.B.O. calculations - Note: Data from estimates released June 30, 2025.

Recent Federal Updates (cont'd)

- In his second term, President Trump has surged immigration enforcement. It is estimated that the Administration has deported between 70,000 and 140,000 people between January and April.
- The Administration has limited lawful congressional oversight of immigration detention facilities, illegally and erroneously deported certain individuals, and worked to unconstitutionally circumvent due process rights for noncitizens.
- The Republican budget bill also explodes ICE's \$10 billion annual budget to more than \$100 billion through 2029, which is more than many countries spend on their entire military.

Daily ICE arrests more than double under Trump

Average daily arrests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the last decade, and the approximate daily average during Trump's term until the first week of June



Note: U.S. government fiscal years run from Oct. 1-Sept. 30. American presidents are inaugurated on Jan. 20 or 21, more than three months into the fiscal year.

By Ben Kellerman • Source: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, White House

Undermining Congressional Power

- The Constitution grants Congress the authority to impose tariffs, but various federal laws delegate some of this authority to the Executive Branch. Under Republican control, Congress has failed to respond to the President's ill-advised trade war.
- Congress also is the sole authority that determines federal spending levels by passing appropriations bills that the President may sign into law. The President has illegally withheld at least \$425 billion in federal funding as of June for programs that support foreign aid, medical research, renewable energy, and other initiatives. Republicans in Congress have failed to take any action to protect Congress's authority over spending levels, beyond passing a law to rescind \$9.4 billion in spending on foreign aid and public broadcasting.
- Republicans in Congress have weaponized their oversight powers. While the President and his family have illegally enriched themselves through public office, congressional Republicans have taken no steps to investigate these matters and instead continue to focus on former President Biden.



Epstein Files

- For years, President Trump stated that records related to Jeffrey Epstein should be released and that the “deep state” is protecting powerful elites who were associates of Epstein.
- In February 2025, Attorney General Pam Bondi released a first round of files related to Epstein and stated that Epstein’s client list was “sitting on her desk.” However, in July, the Justice Department stated that there was no client list. That same month, media reporting indicated that President Trump had been briefed that his name appeared in some of the Epstein files.
- House Republicans are divided on whether to release the Epstein files, and Republican leadership has stalled bipartisan congressional efforts to force release of additional files (with appropriate protections for victims of Epstein).

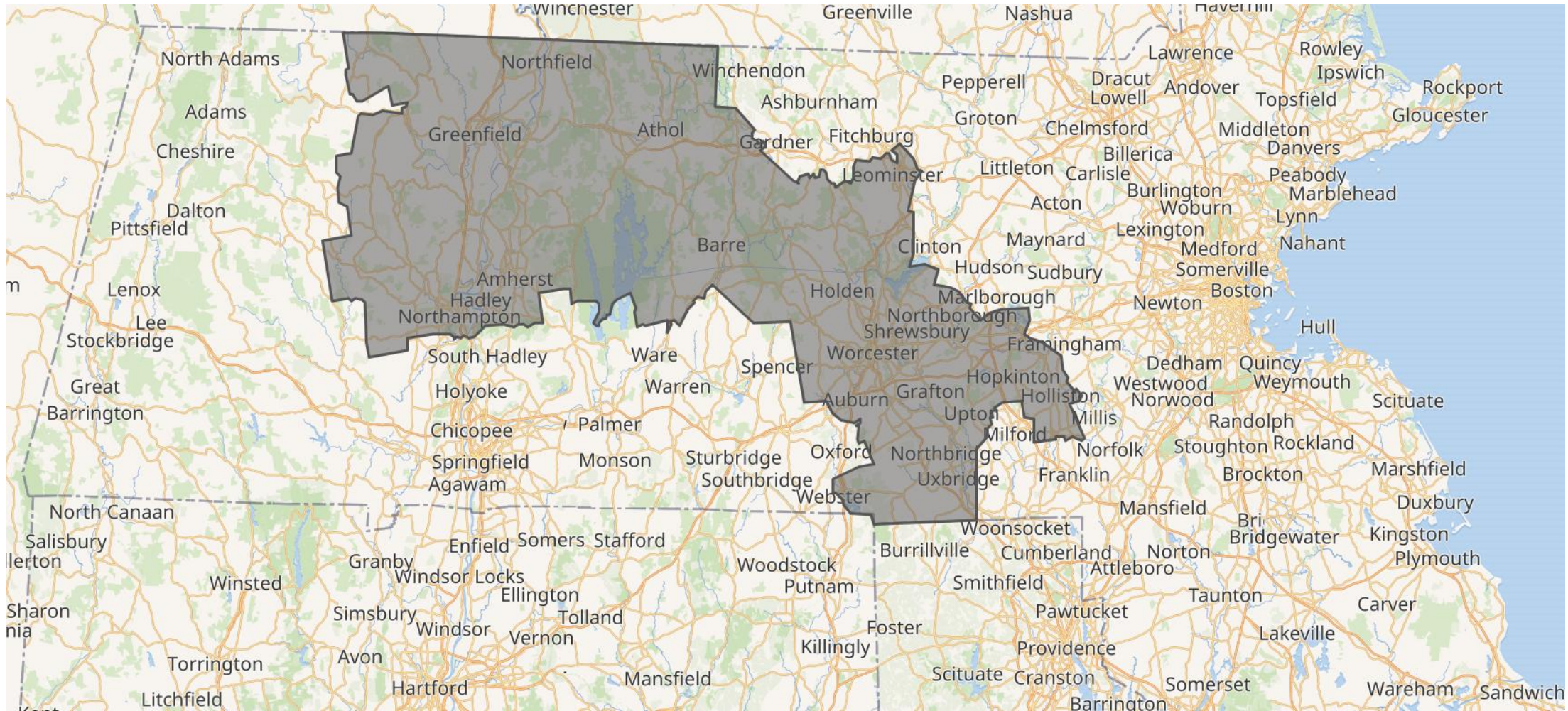


Introducing Congressman Jim McGovern

- Congressman McGovern has represented Massachusetts in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1997. He currently represents the 2nd Congressional District, which includes the municipalities of Worcester, Leominster, Amherst, Shrewsbury, and Northampton.
- Congressman McGovern is the Ranking Member (or top Democrat) on the House Rules Committee and a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee. He also serves as the co-chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and as a member of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China.
- In his position on the House Rules Committee, Congressman McGovern plays a leading role in Democrats' efforts to push back on the Trump agenda, including recent efforts to block the Republican budget bill and force the release of the Epstein files.



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