

Speaker Biographies



**Philip W. Johnston,
Chairman,
Massachusetts
Health Policy Forum
and former Chair,
Massachusetts State
Democratic Party**

In 1984, Governor Michael S. Dukakis appointed Phil the Secretary of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts. As Secretary, he was responsible for the administration of seventeen state agencies in the health and human services field, which comprised over fifty percent of the state budget. Just prior to his appointment as Secretary, Phil had begun his fifth consecutive term as an elected State Representative from the Fourth Plymouth District of Massachusetts.

In 1991, Phil served as the Executive Director of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, in Washington, D.C., an organization established by the Kennedy family to continue to carry on Robert F. Kennedy's work in the field of social justice and human rights in the United States and around the globe. In 1992, he was appointed by President Clinton to serve as the New England Administrator of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the Administrator, Phil had supervisory responsibility for a multitude of federal Health and Human Services programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, Headstart, WIC and many other programs serving vulnerable populations in the six New England states. He reported directly to HHS Secretary, Donna Shalala. He served in that role until 1996 when he became a Democratic candidate for the US Congress in the 10th District of Massachusetts. From 2000-2007, Phil was twice elected Chair of the Massachusetts Democratic Party.

Phil was appointed in 2007 by Governor Deval Patrick as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Massachusetts. He chaired the Search Committee for a new Chancellor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. He

also served as Chair of the Search Committee for the new UMass Amherst Chancellor. From 2013 to 2017, Phil served as Chairman of the University of Massachusetts Building Authority Board of Directors. He was recently elected Vice Chair of the University of Massachusetts Foundation.

Phil has served on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts since 1998. In 2002, he was appointed to Chair the Board of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, which has an endowment of \$115 million dollars and provides grants to Massachusetts nonprofit organizations, which work in the healthcare field on behalf of low-income citizens. In addition, Phil is the Board Chair of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum, an organization funded by Massachusetts health providers and payors, which serves both as a health policy research organization and as a convenor of key players in the health field to address key health policy issues confronting the state and the nation. The Forum has a close affiliation with Brandeis University.

Phil also sits on the Boards of ConforMIS, the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, the Carroll Center for the Blind, the Tramuto Foundation, Health eVillages, along with the Advisory Board for the Kenneth B. Schwartz Center. In 2012, Phil was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. Most recently, Phil was named a trustee of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York.

Phil founded and served as Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps, one of the top juvenile justice and social services agencies in the country. Currently, he serves on the Advisory Board of the Action Corps.

In addition to holding honorary degrees from the University of Massachusetts Boston, Bridgewater State College, and Curry College, Phil received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst (Honors in History)

and a Master of Arts degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



Joan Vennoch,
Associate Editor and
Columnist, The Boston
Globe

Joan Vennoch started at the Boston Globe as a researcher on the Spotlight Team and shared in a Pulitzer Prize for a series on the MBTA. Since then,

she has covered city, state and national politics; created a business column that explored the intersection of business and politics; and now writes for the Op-ed page. As a member of the Globe editorial board, she also helps formulate and write editorials. She is a graduate of Boston University and Suffolk Law School.



Mollyann Brodie, Executive Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer, Henry J. Kaiser Family
Foundation and Executive Director, KFF's Public
Opinion and Survey Research Program

Mollyann Brodie is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and Executive Director of KFF's Public Opinion and Survey Research Program. As COO, Dr. Brodie oversees KFF's budgeting, human resources, facilities management, and the executive operations of the President's Office and Board of Trustees. As ED of Public Opinion and Survey Research, she

oversees KFF's polling work including the monthly Health Tracking Poll and ongoing survey partnerships with news media organizations. A distinguished public opinion scholar, Dr. Brodie's research efforts focus on understanding the U.S. public's views and knowledge on health care policy issues, and the role of opinion in health policy debates. Her research has been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association; New England Journal of Medicine; Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law; and Health Affairs. She is co-editor of the book American Public Opinion and Health Care (CQ Press, 2011). Dr. Brodie is a Past President of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and the 2018 recipient of the Roper Center's Warren J. Mitofsky Award for Excellence in Public Opinion Research. She received a M.S. in Health Policy and Management and a Ph.D. in Health Policy from Harvard University.



Jennifer Ann Nassour,
Former Chair, MA
Republican Party

Jennifer A. Nassour is an attorney and political advisor living in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. Nassour campaigned to represent District 8

on the Boston City Council in 2019, advancing through a preliminary election to the runoff election in November. Prior to running for public office, Nassour served as the Chief Executive Officer of ReflectUS, a nonpartisan coalition of the nation's leading women's representation organizations. She is also the founder of the Pocketbook Project (formerly Conservative Women for a Better Future), a non-profit organization dedicated to electing more women in Massachusetts and the Northeast. Nassour has served as an attorney for nearly two decades, and was elected chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party in 2009 and 2011.

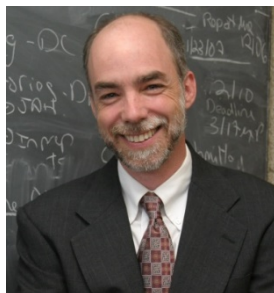
During Nassour's tenure as Chairman of the Massachusetts Republican Party, Republicans won the U.S. Senate seat held by Scott Brown and doubled their ranks in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the first gains in two decades. As chairman, Nassour also rebuilt the party's activist infrastructure. Under her leadership, the party added 100 additional city and town committees and launched an unprecedented series of training seminars covering all aspects of campaigning for activists, candidates, campaign managers, and elected officials.

Since her time at the state party, Nassour has refocused on bi-partisan efforts, engaging in constructive debates as an analyst on numerous national and Boston-area news programs. Nassour currently serves on the board at the non-partisan think tank MassINC, the board of the Esplanade Association, the advisory board of the University of Massachusetts Women into Leadership program, the National Board of Fair Vote, and as a vice president of The Union Club of Boston's Board of Governors. Previously, Nassour served on the boards of MassGeneral Hospital for Children, Suffolk University, Bridgewater State University, the Dorchester YMCA, and the Massachusetts Public Health Council.

Nassour earned her juris doctor from St. John's University School of Law in 2000. She also holds a master's degree in political science from C.W. Post University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Stony Brook University. She and her three daughters live in the Back Bay with their two dogs.

The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. He is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Health Policy Forum. His Ph.D. from Brandeis is both in Political Science and Health Services Research. His research and publications focus on issues related to access to health care reform, federalism, Medicaid, federal/state relations, public health and the politics and economics of health system change.

He speaks widely on state and national health care reform. He is author of *American Federalism in Practice: The Formulation and Implementation of Contemporary Health Policy*, published by the Brookings Institute Press in 2013. Michael worked as program specialist for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), in the area of Medicaid managed care and state health care reform. He served as a member of President Clinton's Health Care Taskforce working primarily on the Low-Income and Working Families work group, and as a member of the Taskforce Speakers Bureau. Michael also worked as a fellow for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee as they considered national reform in 1994. He began his career as a legislative aide for Senator John Kerry where he worked on health and environmental issues.



**Michael Doonan, PhD,
Executive Director,
Massachusetts Health
Policy Forum**

Michael Doonan, PhD is an associate professor and Director for the Masters of Public Policy

Program, Schneider Institute for Health Policy at