



White Cane Awareness Day Celebration

Join the [Massachusetts Commission for the Blind](#) and [Perkins School for the Blind](#) to celebrate the independence of the white cane and help raise awareness of the White Cane Law in Massachusetts which requires drivers to identify and yield to pedestrians using a white cane or dog guide at street crossings.

**Friday, October 18, 2024
10 A.M. to 1 P.M.**

**Massachusetts State House - Great Hall
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Register To Attend

- Registration is required. Space is limited.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to earn two ACVREP continuing education credits.

Perkins
SCHOOL FOR
THE BLIND

Refreshments Provided by [Perkins School for the Blind](#)

- Morning pastries
- Fresh baked muffins
- Bagels with toppings
- Fresh cut seasonal fruit salad
- Juices and bottled water
- Coffee service with creamer and sugar



Listen Live!

If you are unable to attend the celebration in person, [Talking Information Center](#) will broadcast the event live:

- [How to Listen](#)

The celebration will also be rebroadcast on all the [Massachusetts Audio Information Network](#) member stations.



The White Cane

- History
- Related laws

[Learn about the white cane](#)



Share Your Story

What does your white cane mean to you?

[Submit a Testimonial](#)

This year marks the 60th anniversary of White Cane Day as a national observance. On October 6, 1964, a joint resolution of Congress authorized the President to proclaim October 15 as White Cane Safety Day. Just hours later, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the first proclamation.

Over the years, the white cane has evolved from a simple mobility tool into a powerful symbol of independence and equality. Today, we recognize this day as White Cane Awareness Day. To honor this milestone, the Healey-Driscoll Administration will issue a proclamation, which [Health and Human Services Secretary Kate Walsh](#) will read during our event. [Senator Robyn Kennedy](#) and [Representative Jay Livingstone](#), co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, will also deliver remarks.

Our celebration will feature an inspiring lineup of speakers, including [Kerlyne Pacombe](#) and [Kate Katulak Higgins](#), who will share their personal experiences and reflections on the significance of the white cane. Additionally, we will announce the winners of the [Meg Robertson Mobility Award](#), honoring individuals who have demonstrated exceptional mobility skills and have embraced the white cane to enhance their independence. As a special highlight, pianist [Matteo Faso](#) will perform, bringing an uplifting and personal touch.



Featured Speaker: Kate Katulak Higgins

Kate Katulak Higgins is the Associate Director of University Disability Resources at Harvard University, where she excels in providing leadership and developing best practices for disability access and inclusion. In this role, she is instrumental in shaping the university's approach to creating an inclusive campus environment.

[Read Kate's Full Biography](#)

Resource Tables

The following organizations will be hosting resource tables. Visit them before the speaking event begins at 11 A.M. or after the event concludes at 1 P.M.

- [City of Boston Disabilities Commission](#)
- [Massachusetts Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#)
- [Massachusetts Audio Information Network](#)
- [Massachusetts Office on Disability](#)
- [MBTA Mobility Center](#)
- [MBTA Department of System-Wide Accessibility](#)
- [MCB/DDS Partnership Project](#)
- [New England ADA Center](#)
- [Partners for Youth with Disabilities](#)
- [Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library](#)
- [Perkins School for the Blind](#)
- [The Carroll Center for the Blind](#)
- [Work Without Limits](#)



Make A White Cane Pin to Show Your Support

MCB Orientation and Mobility Director Ally Bull describes how to make a white cane lapel pin.

[Watch the Video](#)

Visiting the Massachusetts State House

The Ashburton Park Entrance on Bowdoin Street is the accessible entrance for the State House.

Visitors using The RIDE or a rideshare service, such as Uber or Lyft, may use Capitol Coffee House at 122 Bowdoin Street as the drop off point address. Capitol Coffee House is across the street from the Ashburton Park Entrance. Guides will be available to assist attendees.

- [Information on visiting the Massachusetts State House](#)
- [Learn more about Massachusetts State House Accessibility](#)

Questions?

Email mcbinfo@mass.gov or call [1-800-392-6450](tel:1-800-392-6450)

The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind does not discriminate on the basis of disability and is committed to providing accessible events. ASL interpreting and CART services have been requested. To request a reasonable modification to participate in this event, please contact Executive Office of Health and Human Services Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accommodations Coordinator Shauntay King at [617-894-4352](tel:617-894-4352) or Shauntay.M.King@mass.gov. Requests made after October 4, 2024 will be considered but may not be possible to fill.

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind
600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111
[1-800-392-6450](tel:1-800-392-6450)

