

# The History of the Fiscal Cliff

MBTA Board of Directors Meeting

Michael J. Widmer

April 25, 2024

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## Michael J. Widmer

### Retired – Past President, Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

- Michael J. Widmer served as President of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation from 1992 - 2015. Founded in 1932, the Taxpayers Foundation is widely recognized as the state's premier public policy organization dealing with state spending, tax and economic policies. The Foundation's record of high quality research and non-partisan analysis has earned the organization broad credibility on Beacon Hill and across the state.
- During his tenure, the Foundation won 16 prestigious national awards for its work on a wide array of topics, including health care, business costs, capital spending, state and municipal finances, transportation restructuring, and state government reform.
- Mr. Widmer joined the Foundation in 1990 after more than 20 years of management and political experience in both the public and private sectors in Massachusetts. He held a variety of senior-level positions at Cabot Corporation between 1979 and 1990, first as Director of Public Affairs and later as Vice President for Human Resources.
- Has also served as Town Moderator in Belmont since 2008.
- During the 1970s Mr. Widmer served with the Sargent administration as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Human Services and in the first Dukakis administration as the Governor's Director of Communications and Deputy Chief Secretary. Earlier in his career Mr. Widmer worked as a reporter for United Press International.
- A cum laude graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Widmer holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in political science from Harvard University.

