



For Immediate Release
June 15, 2023

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Press release: 23-060

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission to Begin Search for New Executive Director *Karen Wells to step down after 10 years with MGC, three years as executive director*

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) Chair Cathy Judd-Stein today announced that Executive Director Karen Wells will be departing the agency effective July 14, 2023. The Commission will soon announce a process for selecting a new executive director – discussion of this process will take place at future public meetings of the Commission.

“On behalf of my fellow commissioners I want to thank Karen for her contributions to the MGC over her ten years of service and for the leadership she has provided as executive director,” said MGC Chair Cathy Judd-Stein. “Karen is the model of a leader, and her influence can be seen in everything the MGC does. The MGC’s effectiveness as a regulator is a direct reflection of Karen’s efforts and her ability to build, motivate and direct the MGC team. Her strategic abilities and steady presence enabled the MGC to stand up a sports wagering industry committed to consumer protections in a timely fashion. We wish her the very best in the future.”

Wells joined the MGC in 2013 as Director of the Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB), and twice served as interim executive director prior to assuming the full-time position of executive director in September 2020. In nearly ten years of service to the MGC, Wells has amassed a list of accomplishments and accolades that will remain impactful past her departure. Wells was instrumental in protecting the public interest and ensuring the integrity of gaming in the Commonwealth, leading the entire MGC team and licensees through the COVID-19 pandemic, and successfully implementing the sports wagering law signed in August 2022 and standing up a new sports wagering industry in Massachusetts.

Prior to her time at the MGC, Wells served in leadership roles with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and the Middlesex District Attorney.

“Over the last decade, I’ve had the privilege of working for the Massachusetts Gaming Commission, first as the Director of the IEB and for the last three years as the Executive Director,” said Karen Wells. “I’ve worked across the agency since its formation with commissioners and staff who are dedicated public servants, committed to making sure the regulation of the gaming industry in Massachusetts focuses on ensuring the public confidence in the integrity of our operations. Together this team created the infrastructure for a new state agency, opened three casinos, weathered a pandemic, and launched the new legal sports wagering industry. Today the agency’s core responsibilities are operating smoothly, and I have every confidence our team will continue the great work we have done together over the years. I will be forever thankful for the support I received from my colleagues, commissioners, and our licensees.”



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

About MGC's Executive Director

The executive director is the executive and administrative head of the Commission and is responsible for administering and enforcing the provisions of law relative to the Commission and to each administrative unit thereof. The executive director assumes leadership of the Commission staff and is responsible for staffing, establishing, maintaining, and changing administrative units as may be appropriate, subject to the approval of the Commission. The executive director plans, directs, executes, and coordinates all administrative activities and assists the Commission in developing the policies and procedures related to the regulation of gaming in Massachusetts.

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