

Bio for David D’Arcangelo (*Pronounced Dark-Angelo*)

Legally blind from a young age, David D’Arcangelo, is a passionate advocate for people with disabilities and underserved populations. He has built meaningful careers in both the public and private sectors and currently serves as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB). MCB is one of the most established blind agencies and David follows in the footsteps of one of MCB’s first commissioners Helen Keller.

David is known for his innovative ideas. He championed groundbreaking and transformative projects that include: systems modernization through technology enhancements that deliver better outcomes for blind consumers, enhancing consumer’s independence through assistive technology deployments, crafting a low vision Residency Fellowship in collaboration with the New England College of Optometry and devising and implementing the Employer Challenge program, which asks employers to “*Do One More Thing*” to reduce stigma and increase employment for the visually impaired by providing access to employment opportunities.

He also collaborated on enterprise-wide (~41,000 Executive Branch Employees) telework, hybrid work, and alternative work options programs that arose because of COVID. As Commissioner, David oversees the agency’s \$35M budget to ensure the highest quality of vocational and social rehabilitation services are delivered to individuals with blindness throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As a Presidential appointee, David served as a Council Member of the National Council on Disability (NCD). NCD is an independent federal agency that plays a leading role in crafting disability policy, and advising the President, Congress, and other federal agencies on disability policies, programs, and practices including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

David’s experience includes previous roles as an executive policymaker, which include serving as the Director of the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) and three terms as a Malden City Councilor At Large. Notably, David helped model for people with disabilities and was one of very few elected officials in Massachusetts to openly serve as a person with a disability. David’s extensive experience in government and public policy includes serving the administrations of four Governors and as an aide in the Massachusetts State Legislature. David may have been the first person to reach a statewide ballot in Massachusetts who self-identified with a disability when he became the 2014 Republican Nominee for Secretary of State.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) recognized David as one of the 30 Leaders Impacting Disability Policy in their Capitol Ideas Magazine celebrating 30 years of the ADA. David also served on the national “Work Matters” Task Force, which designed a framework for states to use in workforce development for people with disabilities. David’s extensive speaking skills include presenting at the National ADA Symposium, the American Enterprise Institute, the National Governor’s Association State Learning Lab, and numerous other conferences, meetings, and events. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the 2022 Toll Fellowship from the Council of State Governments; Marquis Who’s Who in America 2021; I Migliori Government Service Award, Pirandello Lyceum, 2019; Community Collaborator of the Year Award, Career Collaborative, 2017, and others. One of David’s ideas was recently selected into the competitive 10X process, Project #11: Connecting the Vocational Rehabilitation Data Landscape.

Aligning his leadership with social responsibility, David has extensive experience within non-profit leadership, including serving on the Board of Directors for the Arc of Middlesex East, Board of Directors for Resource Partnership, and the Board of Directors for Tailored for Success. David has also served in many other charitable and leadership positions, including Past President of the Malden Rotary Club, member and former Chair of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind Rehabilitation Council (appointed by two Governors), member of the Braille Literacy Advisory Council, and as an Election Officer for the City of Boston.

David’s industry leadership, vision, and innovation includes identifying development sites for the for disabled and senior housing for the nation’s largest non-profit rental CO-OP (CSI Support & Development Services); and spearheading M&L Transit Systems, Inc.’s financial turnaround and budget development.

David is a graduate of Suffolk University, where he served as an adjunct faculty member in the Communications and Journalism Department. David lives in Malden with his wife Lisa and their daughter, who is on the Autism Spectrum.