



## ***City of Worcester Benefit's Office Announcement***

### ***City of Worcester's Adoption of MGL 32B, Section 18***

Please be advised that the City of Worcester has recently adopted Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 32B, Section 18 which is a local option statute that requires all Medicare eligible retirees of a municipality to enroll in a Medicare health insurance plan, allowing for a significant portion of the health insurance cost to be shifted to the federal Medicare program.

For City retirees/spouses already enrolled in a Medicare health insurance plan, this change will not affect you. If you are already enrolled in BCBS MEDEX, BCBS Managed Blue for Seniors, or Fallon Senior, ***you do NOT need to make any change to your health insurance coverage.***

For City retirees/spouses who are NOT Medicare eligible, this change will not affect you. You will remain in your current conventional health insurance plan. However, you will be required to confirm your Medicare eligibility status on a supplied form.

For City retirees/spouses that are Medicare eligible and enrolled in a conventional health insurance plan (BCBS Blue Choice, Fallon Select, or Fallon Direct), ***you will be required to switch to a Medicare health insurance plan*** (MEDEX, Managed Blue for Seniors, or Fallon Senior).

**A.** If you are already enrolled in Medicare Part A and Medicare Part B, you must select a new plan during a special open enrollment period *between August 20, 2007 and September 7, 2007*. You will receive enrollment information separately in the mail. The effective date of the new plan will be October 1, 2007.

**B.** If you are a Medicare eligible retiree/spouse not yet enrolled in Medicare Part A and Part B, you must enroll as soon as allowed by Medicare:

1. If you turn the age of 65 after May 1, 2007, you must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B as soon as allowed by Medicare but not later than three months following the month of your birthday.
2. If you/spouse retired on/after January 1, 2007, you must enroll in Medicare Part A and Part B as soon as allowed by Medicare but not later than 8 months following the month of your retirement.
3. If you are Medicare eligible and do not qualify under option 1 or 2 above, you must enroll during a Medicare Open Enrollment Period.

**If you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Benefits Office  
Room 101, City Hall. Tel: (508) 799-1025**