community development partnership

Creating opportunities for people to live, work, and thrive on the Lower and Outer Cape

A Lasting Legacy: Sarah K. Peake's Commitment Helps Cape Cod Thrive

Former Massachusetts State Representative Sarah Peake's story is one of progress, purpose, and unwavering passion. For nearly two decades, she has been a driving force behind some of the most significant advancements on the Lower and Outer Cape—ensuring that thoughtful growth, environmental protection, and community needs go hand in hand.

Through strong, collaborative partnerships, Sarah helped shape a vision for Cape Cod that respects its unique character while planning wisely for the future. Her advocacy has consistently ensured that the voices of the Lower and Outer Cape were not only heard—but prioritized.

What Motivated Her

Sarah Peake's journey into public service began with a deeply personal conviction. In 2004, she was compelled to run for office after witnessing the incumbent Representative of the 4th Barnstable District speak out against marriage equality. For Sarah, it wasn't just a political issue—it was a matter of justice, fairness, and standing up for her community's values.

Although she did not win her first campaign, Sarah's commitment never wavered. Just two years later, in 2006, she returned to the race with renewed determination and a broader coalition of support. That year, she made history—winning with 56% of the vote to become the **first Democrat ever elected to represent the 4th Barnstable District**.

Her campaign was fueled by a clear message: that every voice deserves to be heard, and that leadership must reflect the values of equality, inclusion, and respect. It was a defining moment that set the tone for Sarah's 18 years of service on Beacon Hill.



"No one approached the job with more dedication, a deeper sense of responsibility, or greater love for this community. Sarah brings intellectual curiosity, unwavering passion, and a 'get things done' mindset to everything she does—she's always focused on making a meaningful difference."

- Dan Wolf, CDP Board Member and former Massachusetts State Senator

A Legacy of Accomplishment

Sarah K. Peake served as the State Representative for Massachusetts' 4th Barnstable District from 2007 to 2024.

Over her 18 years in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, Sarah's leadership has had a profound impact on Cape Cod residents—especially in the areas of housing, infrastructure, and small business development.

- **Cape and Islands Water Protection Fund:** After more than 20 years of effort, this landmark fund was established under Sarah's leadership. It now finances essential wastewater infrastructure upgrades and helps lay the groundwork for affordable workforce housing.
- **Expanding the Rooms Tax:** Sarah championed the expansion of the rooms tax to include short-term rentals—a move that brought millions of new dollars into local budgets to support housing production and community development.
- **Supporting Affordable Housing:** She secured over **$1 million in ARPA funding** to launch the CDP's **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) Resource Center**, and since 2018, has delivered **$100,000 annually** to support the CDP's **Lower Cape Housing Institute**.
- **Champion for Small Businesses:** Sarah has been a consistent advocate for the CDP's small business programs, helping secure ongoing support through **MassDevelopment's Small Business Technical Assistance Program**.

A Continued Voice for Cape Cod

Now serving as **Senior Advisor for Intergovernmental Affairs** in the Administration of Governor Maura Healey, Sarah remains a powerful advocate for the Cape. She's widely respected at the State House for her ability to bridge the executive and legislative branches, and for her thoughtful, community-first approach to policymaking.

Sarah Peake has laid a strong foundation for future innovation and progress. Her work exemplifies public service at its best—marked by tireless advocacy, heartfelt mentorship, and a deep commitment to the well-being of her community.

For her years of dedicated service, the CDP is proud to present **the Gwen Pelletier Award for Excellence in Community Service** to **Former State Representative Sarah K. Peake**. This recognition celebrates not only her impactful policy work, but also the inspiration she's provided to all who share her vision for a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable Cape Cod.