



America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference

BOSTON GLOBAL FORUM · AI WORLD SOCIETY · LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY · MAY 1, 2026

SPECIAL PROFILE

Governor Michael Dukakis

Statesman, Co-Founder of BGF, and Co-Author of America's AI Age Vision

Co-Chair, America at 250 Conference

Co-Founder & Chair, Boston Global Forum

Co-Author, *America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age*

Three-Term Governor of Massachusetts · 1988 Democratic Presidential Nominee



I

A Life in Public Service

FROM BROOKLINE TO THE NATIONAL STAGE

Michael Stanley Dukakis is one of the most consequential public servants of modern America — a statesman whose career spans more than half a century of democratic leadership, policy innovation, and civic service. Born in Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1933 to Greek immigrant parents, he built a life that came to reflect some of the finest traditions of American public service: rigor, principle, persistence, and a deep belief that government can and must work for the common good.

Dukakis served as **Governor of Massachusetts for three terms** — from 1975 to 1979 and again from 1983 to 1991 — helping transform a struggling industrial state into one of the nation's most dynamic economies. The “Massachusetts Miracle,” as it became known, was built on strategic investment in education, technology, and workforce development. His leadership demonstrated that effective governance and economic vitality are not opposing forces, but mutually reinforcing ones.

In **1988**, Dukakis became the **Democratic Party’s nominee for President of the United States**, carrying a message centered on competence, integrity, and public responsibility. Though he did not win the presidency, the values he brought to that campaign — and the coalition he helped shape — left a lasting mark on American political life.

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“The question is never whether government should play a role in our lives. The question is whether it plays that role well — with competence, integrity, and a genuine commitment to the people it serves.”

II

Building the Boston Global Forum

FROM MASSACHUSETTS TO THE WORLD STAGE

After leaving the governorship, Dukakis joined the faculty of **Northeastern University** and later **UCLA**, bringing his decades of practical experience into the classroom and mentoring a new generation of public servants. Yet one of his most significant contributions after public office came in **December 2012**, when he co-founded the **Boston Global Forum** alongside Harvard Professors Thomas Patterson and John Quelch, and Nguyen Anh Tuan.

What began as a dialogue among Boston’s civic and academic leaders grew into a respected international forum at the intersection of technology, governance, and global peace.

As **Co-Founder and Chair of BGF**, Dukakis has served as its moral and civic anchor — bringing the authority of a lifetime in democratic leadership and the clarity of someone who has never lost sight of the central question: what does good governance look like in practice?

In **2017**, at his home in Brookline, Dukakis and Nguyen Anh Tuan laid the foundation for the **AI World Society** — a political, economic, and social framework for ethical, human-centered AI governance. That founding moment — two leaders committed to democratic values, thinking together about how humanity should navigate the AI Age — reflects the continuity between Dukakis’s lifelong commitments and the defining challenges of our time.

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“The AI Age does not change the fundamental questions of democracy. It makes them more urgent. Who governs? For whom? With what accountability? These are the questions we must answer well — or risk losing what we have built over 250 years.”

III

America at 250

CO-AUTHORING A VISION FOR AMERICA'S NEXT CHAPTER

As the United States approaches the 250th anniversary of its founding, Michael Dukakis brings a perspective that few living Americans can match. He has spent his entire adult life in service to the ideals of the Republic, witnessed democracy tested and renewed across seven decades, and retained an undiminished faith in America's capacity for self-renewal.

Together with Nguyen Anh Tuan, he co-authored *America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age*, a forward-looking work that asks what it means for America to lead in the age of artificial intelligence. The book argues that America's greatest contribution to the AI Age will not be technology alone, but the values that guide it: commitment to the rule of law, democratic accountability, human dignity, and the belief that the benefits of progress must be widely shared. It is both a celebration of what America has achieved over 250 years and a call to lead not by dominance, but by example.

As **Co-Chair of the America at 250 Conference**, Dukakis helps lead a gathering that reflects the full weight of that vision — bringing together 50 AI Pioneers, global leaders, and leading thinkers at Loeb House, Harvard University, on May 1, 2026, to help chart America's path in the AI Age. His role at the conference is not merely ceremonial; it reflects the values and public purpose the gathering seeks to advance.

At 92, Michael Dukakis remains what he has long been: a citizen-statesman who believes in the power of democratic governance to improve human lives, a teacher who has never stopped learning, and a builder who understands that the most important institutions are not built in a day, but sustained, strengthened, and handed on across generations.

CONCLUSION

*From the Massachusetts State House to the 1988 presidential campaign, from the founding of the Boston Global Forum to the co-authorship of *America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age*, Governor Michael Dukakis has lived a life of democratic commitment across the full arc of modern American history. As America marks 250 years, he reminds us that the ideals of the Republic are not relics of the past, but **living responsibilities for every generation — including our own.***



America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age · AI Pioneers
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