

# Letter: League of Women Voters supports CPA for Arlington

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## ARLINGTON

The following letter to the editor was published in the Oct. 2 issue of the Arlington Advocate.

**MORE:** Arlington groups will discuss Community Preservation Act at the Arlington School Committee meeting on Thursday

### Urges vote for CPA

The League of Women Voters of Arlington supports adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which is Question 5 on the November ballot.

The CPA enables cities and towns in Massachusetts to create a locally dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, community housing and outdoor recreation. It will enable Arlington to maintain, protect and expand on important town assets.

Funds could be used to preserve land for the enjoyment of all residents, create trails for recreational use, provide affordable housing for seniors, restore and preserve historic structures, and complete other projects that the town has been unable to adequately fund over the years. The Town Hall gardens are in disrepair; the Menotomy Indian Hunter rarely sees his reflection in the reflecting pool; the bathrooms at the Senior Center need modernization.

Question 5 on the November 4 ballot asks the voter whether or not to accept the CPA legislation for Arlington. The CPA funds would be generated through two sources: a surcharge of 1.5 percent on property tax bills, and an annual disbursement from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund to communities that have adopted the CPA.

The Trust Fund's revenues are derived from fees collected at the Registry of Deeds and from the state budget surplus. The legislation includes an exemption of the first \$100,000 of assessed value of residential and commercial/industrial real estate and an exemption for low-income homeowners and low-to-moderate-income seniors. For an average home in Arlington, a little over \$500,000, the tax surcharge would be \$86 per year.

The CPA's three core areas, open space and recreation, affordable housing, and historic preservation, are included in the program supported by the League. Vote yes on Question 5 on the November 4 ballot.

For more information, see <http://www.arlingtoncpa.org/>, the website of the campaign in favor of Question 5.

-- Angela Olszewski and Carolyn Parsons, League of Women Voters of Arlington co-presidents