

# Question 5: The Community Preservation Act



 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACE**  
 **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

## Last On Your Ballot Tuesday, November 8

### QUESTION #5

Shall Boston accept sections 3 to 7 inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by the City Council, a summary of which appears below?

**SUMMARY** Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act (Act), establish a dedicated funding source to enable the City of Boston to (1) help meet affordable housing needs; (2) create and rehabilitate parks, playgrounds and athletic fields; (3) preserve land for outdoor recreational uses and conservation areas; and (4) preserve and rehabilitate historic buildings and resources. In Boston, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 1% on the annual property tax assessed on real property beginning in Fiscal Year 2018; plus other funds that may be committed by the City for community preservation purposes pursuant to Section 3(b) 1/2 of Chapter 44B; and annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act. The Commonwealth provides funds only to communities adopting the Act. If approved, the following will be exempt from the surcharge: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing as defined in Section 2 of the Act; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and (3) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property and class four, industrial property as defined in Section 2A of Chapter 59. A taxpayer whose tax is reduced by an abatement or exemption will receive a reduction in their surcharge in proportion to the reduction. Upon acceptance of the Act by the voters, a Community Preservation Committee will be established to study community preservation needs, possibilities and resources, and to make annual recommendations on spending the funds. [https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/2016\\_ballot\\_questions\\_master\\_1.pdf](https://www.boston.gov/sites/default/files/2016_ballot_questions_master_1.pdf)



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## **CPA would provide new, affordable homes**

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) would help meet community housing needs for low- and moderate-income individuals, families and senior residents throughout Boston by creating and preserving affordable homes.



## **CPA would provide funding for Boston's parks and conservation areas**

CPA would create and rehabilitate parks, playgrounds, trails and athletic fields, and preserve land for conservation and outdoor recreation.



## **CPA funds would rehabilitate historic buildings and resources**

CPA funds would preserve and restore historic resources and rehabilitate buildings for new uses.



If approved by voters, **CPA will raise over \$20 million every year in dedicated funds for Boston**, including annual matching funds from the state. The funds can be used for a multitude of community improvement projects, as long as a minimum of 10% is for outdoor recreation; 10% for historic resources; and 10% for community housing.\*



To calculate the projected cost of the proposed 1% CPA surcharge on your property, go to <http://cpainfo.boston.gov> **CPA would exempt low-income homeowners, low- and moderate-income senior homeowners, and the first \$100,000 of residential and business property value.**

## **Early Voting**

**This is the first year Massachusetts has the option for Early Voting!** If you are registered to vote by October 19, you can vote at any designated voting location in Boston between October 24 and November 4. Early voting will take place at City Hall and in every neighborhood across the City.

Visit [www.boston.gov/elections](http://www.boston.gov/elections) for times and locations.

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