

“Yes” on Q2, support CPA

All townwide candidates for office urge you to vote “yes” on question 2 on Tuesday, May 4th so Brookline can join its neighbors in benefiting from the Community Preservation Act and make Brookline a better place to live for everyone. Adopting the CPA will fund the creation and upkeep of affordable housing, preservation and acquisition of open space and recreational facilities, and the protection of Brookline’s historic treasures. Over 180 communities, including Newton, Concord, Lexington, Cambridge, Boston, Somerville, Needham, and Arlington have already adopted the CPA. It is time that we join our sister communities and take advantage of this program.

Adoption of the CPA would mean a 1% property tax surcharge, with exemptions for low-income households and low- and moderate-income seniors. The surcharge would increase your tax bill by a small amount, \$20 per quarter on a typical \$8,000 tax bill. The CPA will allow Brookline to take advantage of state matching funds incentives and other state, federal, and private matches multiplying the funds available to the Town, to expand and maintain affordable housing, parks, and recreational spaces, and to further engage in historic preservation.

The CPA contributions, with added incentives and state matching funds, will create a dedicated fund that will allow Brookline to pursue priorities that otherwise might never be funded. The actual projects the CPA approves will be vetted by a nine member CPA committee and be submitted for approval, after hearings, to Town Meeting.

Recently, Brookline has been known for passionate, vocal, and heated deliberation and differing visions for the Town’s path forward. The CPA is a rare issue that transcends these differences, gaining support across geography, demographics, interests, and the political spectrum. This growing groundswell is declaring that “yes” the time has come for Brookline to join the CPA. Town Meeting enthusiastically voted “yes” at the fall Town Meeting 205-5. Now the voters can do the same by voting “yes” on question 2 on the May 4 local election ballot.

We hope you will do exactly that.

Tommy Vitolo and all Townwide local candidates