

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

QUESTION 1

Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.

A YES VOTE would specify that the State Auditor has the authority to audit the Legislature.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.

QUESTION 2

Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A YES VOTE would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

QUESTION 3

Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations.

The proposed law would define certain activities by a Company or a Driver Organization to be unfair work practices. The proposed law would establish a hearing process for the state Employment Relations Board ("Board") to follow when a Company or Driver Organization is charged with an unfair work practice. The proposed law would permit the Board to take action, including awarding compensation to adversely affected Drivers, if it found that an unfair work practice had been

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

committed. The proposed law would provide for an appeal of a Board decision to the state Appeals Court.

This proposed law also would establish a procedure for determining which Drivers are Active Drivers, meaning that they completed more than the median number of rides in the previous six months. The proposed law would establish procedures for the Board to determine that a Driver Organization has signed authorizations from at least five percent of Active Drivers, entitling the Driver Organization to a list of Active Drivers; to designate a Driver Organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers based on signed authorizations from at least twenty-five percent of Active Drivers; to resolve disputes over exclusive bargaining status, including through elections; and to decertify a Driver Organization from exclusive bargaining status. A Driver Organization that has been designated the exclusive bargaining representative would have the exclusive right to represent the Drivers and to receive voluntary membership dues deductions.

Once the Board determined that a Driver Organization was the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers, the Companies would be required to bargain with that Driver Organization concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Once the Driver Organization and Companies reached agreement on wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of work, that agreement would be voted upon by all Drivers who has completed at least 100 trips the previous quarter. If approved by a majority of votes cast, the recommendations would be submitted to the state Secretary of Labor for approval and if approved, would be effective for three years. The proposed law would establish procedures for the mediation and arbitration if the Driver Organization and Companies failed to reach agreement within a certain period of time. An arbitrator would consider factors set forth in the proposed law, including whether the wages of Drivers would be enough so that Drivers would not need to rely upon any public benefits. The proposed law also sets out procedures for the Secretary of Labor's review and approval of recommendations negotiated by a Driver Organization and the Companies and for judicial review of the Secretary's decision.

The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail.

The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law.

The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

QUESTION 4

Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances.

This proposed law would license and regulate facilities offering supervised use of these psychedelic substances and provide for the taxation of proceeds from those facilities' sales of psychedelic substances. It would also allow persons aged 21 and older to grow these psychedelic substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area at their home and use these psychedelic substances at their home. This proposed law would authorize persons aged 21 or older to possess up to one gram of psilocybin, one gram of psilocyn, one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine ("personal use amount"), in addition to whatever they might grow at their home, and to give away up to the personal use amount to a person aged 21 or over.

This proposed law would create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission of five members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would administer the law governing the use and distribution of these psychedelic substances. The Commission would adopt regulations governing licensing qualifications, security, recordkeeping, education and training, health and safety requirements, testing, and age verification. This proposed law would also create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Advisory Board of 20 members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would study and make recommendations to the Commission on the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances.

This proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably restrict the time, place, and manner of the operation of licensed facilities offering psychedelic substances, but cities and towns could not ban those facilities or their provision of these substances.

The proceeds of sales of psychedelic substances at licensed facilities would be subject to the state sales tax and an additional excise tax of 15 percent. In addition, a city or town could impose a separate tax of up to two percent. Revenue received from the additional state excise tax, license application fees, and civil penalties for violations of this proposed law would be deposited in a Natural Psychedelic Substances Regulation Fund and would be used, subject to appropriation, for administration of this proposed law.

Using the psychedelic substances as permitted by this proposed law could not be a basis to deny a person medical care or public assistance, impose discipline by a professional licensing board, or enter adverse orders in child custody cases absent clear and convincing evidence that the activities created an unreasonable danger to the safety of a minor child.

This proposed law would not affect existing laws regarding the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence, or the ability of employers to enforce workplace policies restricting the consumption of these psychedelic substances by employees.

This proposed law would allow property owners to prohibit the use, display, growing, processing, or sale of these psychedelic substances on their premises. State and local governments could continue to restrict the possession and use of these psychedelic substances in public buildings or at schools.

This proposed law would take effect on December 15, 2024.

A YES VOTE would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home, and would create a commission to regulate those substances.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

QUESTION 5

Law Proposed by Initiative Petition

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years, on the following schedule:

- To 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025;
- To 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026;
- To 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027;
- To 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and
- To 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

The proposed law would require employers to continue to pay tipped workers the difference between the state minimum wage and the total amount a tipped worker receives in hourly wages plus tips through the end of 2028. The proposed law would also permit employers to calculate this difference over the entire weekly or bi-weekly payroll period. The requirement to pay this difference would cease when the required hourly wage for tipped workers would become 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

Under the proposed law, if an employer pays its workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, the employer would be permitted to administer a “tip pool” that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all the workers, including non-tipped workers.

A YES VOTE would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

QUESTION 6

Do you approve of the amendments to the Barnstable County Charter summarized below?

SUMMARY

The revisions to the Barnstable County Charter proposed by the Assembly of Delegates amend the fiscal provisions of the Charter to: codify the Assembly of Delegates' Standing Committee on Finance and define its powers and duties; expressly authorize the Assembly of Delegates to increase, decrease, add or omit items to the annual budget proposed by the Board of Regional Commissioners; expressly authorize submission of supplemental budget requests by the Board of Regional Commissioners; and expressly authorize any member of the Assembly of Delegates, or the Board of Regional Commissioners, to introduce a request for a supplemental appropriation ordinance after the adoption of the County's fiscal year operating budget, while requiring those ordinances to provide the specific means for defraying the appropriations therein contained.

In the County of Barnstable

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

Question 6

Shall the Town of Berkley be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and-one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Berkley Community School, located at 59 South Main Street, Berkley, Massachusetts, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto?

In the Town of Berkley

Question 6

Shall the town of Chelmsford be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund the design and reconstruction of the fire station located at 260 Old Westford Road and the design and construction of a new fire station to replace the existing fire station located at 295 Acton Road, including related survey, legal, and other costs incidental and related thereto?

In the Town of Chelmsford

Question 6

Shall this Town accept sections 3 to 7 inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, 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" (hereinafter "CPA" or "Act"), establish a dedicated funding source to enable the Town to: (1) acquire, create or preserve open space, including land for recreational use; (2) acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic resources and artifacts; and (3) acquire, create, preserve and support community housing; and (4) rehabilitate or restore open space and community housing that is acquired or created as provided for in the Act. In the Town of Clarksburg, the Community Preservation Act will be funded by a surcharge of 3% on the annual property tax assessed on real property, beginning in fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act.

The following exemptions from the surcharge, permitted under Section 3(e) of the Act, will apply:

- (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 said Act;
- (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property;
- (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 of the General Laws.

A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

Upon acceptance of the CPA by the voters, a Community Preservation Committee will be established by by-law to study community preservation needs, possibilities, and resources, and to submit annual spending recommendation to Town Meeting for approval. At least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year must be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space; (2) historic resources; and (3) community housing.

Town Meeting voted on May 29, 2024 to accept said sections 3 to 7, acting on Article 15 of the warrant.

In the Town of Clarksburg

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

Question 6

Shall this town accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, a summary of which appears below:

Summary

General Laws Chapter 44B, Sections 3 through 7, also known as the Community Preservation Act (“Act”), establishes a dedicated funding source to acquire, create and preserve open space, historic resources, land for recreational use, and community housing, and to rehabilitate and restore such open space, historic resources, land for recreational use and community housing acquired or created under the Act. In Colrain, the Act will be funded by a surcharge of 3% on the annual tax levy on real property and by matching funds provided by the Commonwealth. The following exemptions from the surcharge will apply: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the town; (2) \$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 said chapter 59; and (3) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property. The surcharge to be paid by a taxpayer receiving an abatement of real property authorized by Chapter 59 or any other law will be reduced in proportion to such abatement. A Community Preservation Committee created by town by-law will make recommendations on the use of the funds. Town Meeting must approve any such recommendation before funds can be expended. All expenditures pursuant to the Act will be subject to an annual audit.

In the Town of Colrain

Question 6

Shall the town of Dighton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the Town’s allocable share of the bond issued by the Bristol-Plymouth Regional Vocational Technical School District for the purpose of paying costs of designing, engineering, constructing and equipping a new District High School to be located at 207 Hart Street in Taunton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

In the Town of Dighton

Question 7

Shall the town of Dighton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the Town’s allocable share of the bond issued by the Bristol County Agricultural High School District for the purposes of paying costs of designing, engineering, constructing and equipping the District High School located at 135 Center Street in Dighton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

In the Town of Dighton

Question 6

Shall Douglas accept Sections 3 to 7 inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as proposed by a petition signed by at least 5 percent of the registered voters of the town, 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, establish a dedicated funding source to acquire and preserve open space, parks and conservation land, protect public drinking water supplies and scenic areas, protect farm land

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

and forests from future development, restore and preserve historic properties, and help meet local families' housing needs.

In Douglas the Community Preservation Act will be funded by an additional excise of 1.5% on the annual tax levy on real property to begin to be assessed beginning in fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions provided by the state. The question also provides for exemptions from such surcharge permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act: property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property as defined in Section 2A of said Chapter 59 and class four industrial property as defined in GLc.59, section 2A. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

A Community Preservation Committee composed of local citizens will make recommendations on the use of the funds and all expenditures must be approved by Town Meeting.

In the Town of Douglas

Question 6

Shall the Town of Halifax accept sections 3 to 7 inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, 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, establish a dedicated funding source to acquire and preserve open space, parks and conservation land, protect public drinking water supplies and scenic areas, protect farmland and forests from future development, restore and preserve historic properties, and help meet local families' housing needs. In the Town of Halifax, the Community Preservation Act will be funded by an additional excise of 1.5% on the annual tax levy on real property to be assessed beginning in the fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions provided by the state. The following shall be exempt from such surcharge: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; (2) \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; (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 said Chapter 59. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge. A Community Preservation Committee composed of local citizens will make recommendations on use of the funds and all expenditures must be approved by Town Meeting.

In the Town of Halifax

Question 6

Shall the City of Holyoke amend the current Community Preservation Act real estate surcharge, as established in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and which amendment of such surcharge is permissible pursuant to Section 16 of Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, from 1.5% to 1.0%, a summary of which appears below?

Summary

On May 7, 2024, the City Council voted, without taking a position, to place a question on the ballot which will allow voters to reduce the current Community Preservation Act real estate surcharge

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

from 1.5% to 1.0%. The question will be approved, and the real estate surcharge shall be so reduced, if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot question vote “yes”. The question will not be approved, and the real estate surcharge shall remain the same, if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot question vote “no”.

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the City of Holyoke voted to accept Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B, known as the Community Preservation Act (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”). By accepting the Act, a funding source was established to enable the City of Holyoke to: (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for parks, playgrounds and athletic fields; (2) acquire, preserve and rehabilitate historic resources such as historic community buildings and artifacts; and (3) acquire, create, and preserve and support community housing to help local families meet their housing needs. By accepting the Act, a surcharge of 1.5% was assessed on real estate on an annual basis beginning in Fiscal Year 2018. Exempted from the surcharge are: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the City of Holyoke, 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 said chapter 59.

If the voters vote “Yes”, the surcharge will be reduced from 1.5% to 1.0% on the annual property tax assessed on real property beginning in Fiscal Year 2026. The exemptions will continue to be for: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the City of Holyoke, 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 said chapter 59. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in the surcharge. Any taxpayer seeking a low income or senior exemption shall apply for said exemption annually to the City of Holyoke.

In the City of Holyoke

Question 6

Shall the Town of Ipswich be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of energy efficiency improvements to be made pursuant to an energy services contract, including the payment of costs incidental or related thereto?

In the Town of Ipswich

Question 6

Shall the City of Medford be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in the order to pay costs of constructing a new Fire Station Headquarters to be located at 120 Main Street in Medford, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs related to designing the project, equipping and furnishing the project, site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

In the City of Medford

Question 7

Shall the City of Medford be allowed to assess an additional \$3,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for general operations of the Medford Public Schools (\$3,000,000), including but not limited to funding costs of teacher(s), literacy coach(s), behavior specialist(s), administrative assistant(s),

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

and nurse(s) positions, and for regular facilities maintenance, and for general operations of the Department of Public Works (\$500,000), including but not limited to additional staff for road and sidewalk infrastructure repair, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024?

In the City of Medford

Question 8

Shall the City of Medford be allowed to assess an additional \$4,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for general operations of the Medford Public Schools to create a high school schedule that increases access to arts and vocational programming, expands classroom instructional opportunities, and for classroom teacher and paraprofessional compensation for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024?

In the City of Medford

Question 6

Shall the Town of Mendon be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to fund, design, and construct the Mendon Senior and Community Center?

In the Town of Mendon

Question 6

Shall the Town of Millis be allowed to assess an additional \$1,124,767 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of providing for the general administrative cost of operating the schools, and the department of public works, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024?

In the Town of Millis

Question 6

Shall the Town of North Reading be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to reconstruct the Chestnut Street bridge over the Ipswich River?

In the Town of North Reading

Question 7

Shall the Town of North Reading be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to purchase a ladder truck for the Fire Department?

In the Town of North Reading

Question 6

Shall the town of Northborough be allowed to exempt from the provisions of the proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds to be issued in order to construct a new Fire Station Building to be located at 61-65 West Main Street, Northborough, MA including the payment of costs related to, equipping and furnishing the building, making site improvements, and all other costs incidental and related thereto?

In the Town of Northborough

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

Question 6

Shall the Town of Northbridge be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay the costs for the planning, engineering, and demolition of the former Northbridge Elementary School located at 44 Cross Street?

In the Town of Northbridge

Question 7

Shall the Town of Northbridge be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay the costs for the planning, design, and construction of a recreational park on the site of the former Northbridge Elementary School at 44 Cross Street?

In the Town of Northbridge

Question 6

Shall the Town of Rutland accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, 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"), established a dedicated funding source for the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space; acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use; acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and rehabilitation or restoration of open space and community housing acquired or create as provided under said Act.

In Rutland, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 3% on the annual tax levy on real property beginning in fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act. Only communities that adopt the Act receive a distribution from this state trust fund.

If approved, the following will be exempt from the surcharge: property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town of Rutland, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; and \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential property. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

Upon acceptance by the voters, a Community Preservation Committee composed of local residents will be established through a by-law to be adopted by a future Town Meeting, to study community preservation resources, possibilities, and needs. Town Meeting may appropriate Community Preservation Act funds upon recommendation from the Community Preservation Committee. At least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space and recreation, (2) historic resources, and (3) affordable housing.

In the Town of Rutland

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

Question 6

Shall the Town of Sheffield accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as proposed by its legislative body, 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"), establishes a dedicated funding source for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use; acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and rehabilitation or restoration of open space and community housing acquired or created as provided under said Act.

In Sheffield, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 1% on annual tax levy on real property beginning in fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act. Only communities that adopt the Act receive a distribution from this state trust fund.

If approved, the following exemptions from such surcharge, permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act, will apply: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the town; (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 G.L. c. 59, sec. 2A. The surcharge to be paid by a taxpayer receiving an exemption or an abatement of real property authorized by G.L. c. 59 or any other law will be reduced in proportion to such exemption or abatement.

Upon acceptance by the voters, a Community Preservation Committee will be established by bylaw to study community preservation resources, possibilities, and needs, and will make recommendations on the use of Community Preservation Act funds. Town Meeting must approve any such recommendation before the funds may be expended for any purpose. At least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space and recreation, (2) historic resources and (3) affordable housing.

In the Town of Sheffield

Question 6

Shall this town accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body, a summary of which appears below?

Summary

Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts is also known as the Community Preservation Act (CPA). Towns that vote to adopt the CPA establish a "CPA fund" that can be used for many purposes: to acquire and preserve open space, parks and conservation land, protect public drinking water supplies and scenic areas, protect farmland and forests from future development, restore and preserve historic properties, and help meet local families' housing needs.

In Sherborn, the Community Preservation Act will be funded by an additional excise of 1% on the annual tax levy on real property to be assessed beginning in fiscal year 2026. In addition, the state makes an annual contribution to towns that have adopted the CPA, providing an increase in the town's CPA fund.

To reduce the burden on taxpayers, the following shall be exempt from the CPA surcharge: (1) the first \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; (2) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in Sherborn, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; and (3) the first \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property, and class four, industrial property as

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

defined in section 2A of said Chapter 59, which defines use classifications of real property for purposes of assessment of local taxes. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

A Community Preservation Committee composed of local citizens will make recommendations on the use of the CPA funds, and all expenditures proposed by the Committee must be approved by Town Meeting.

In the Town of Sherborn

Question 6

Shall this City of Somerville amend its acceptance of the Community Preservation Act (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

The City of Somerville accepted the Community Preservation Act (Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts) and established a "Community Preservation Fund" with a dedicated funding source. Fund monies may only be spent on affordable housing, open space, and historic preservation, as follows: to (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for park and recreational uses and the protection of public drinking water well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, wetlands, farm land, forests, marshes, beaches, scenic areas, wildlife preserves and other conservation areas, (2) rehabilitate and restore land for recreational use, (3) acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic buildings and resources, (4) acquire, create, preserve and support affordable housing and (5) rehabilitate and restore open space and affordable housing that was acquired or created with community preservation funds.

In the City of Somerville, the funding source currently is a 1.5% surcharge on the annual property tax assessed on real property. The City of Somerville has adopted the following exemptions from the annual 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 in Somerville 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 3, commercial property and class 4, industrial property as defined in Section 2A of Chapter 59.

This amendment will increase the surcharge from 1.5% to 3%. This amendment will take effect starting in fiscal year 2026, which begins on July 1, 2025. At least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space, (2) historic resources and (3) community housing.

The surcharge will continue to be calculated in the same manner by multiplying the real estate tax on the parcel by the adopted percentage. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in the surcharge.

In the City of Somerville

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

Question 6

Shall the Town of Spencer accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as proposed by its legislative body, 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"), establishes a dedicated funding source to acquire, create and preserve open space and land for recreational use; acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic resources; acquire, create, preserve and support community housing; and to rehabilitate and restore open space, land for recreational use and community housing that is acquired or created in accordance with the Act.

In Spencer, the Act will be funded, beginning in Fiscal Year 2026, by an additional surcharge of one percent (1%) on the annual tax levy on real property and by matching funds provided by the state.

The following exemptions from such surcharge, permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act, will apply: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town; (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. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

A Community Preservation Committee must be created pursuant to by-law and will make recommendation on the use of the funds. Town Meeting must approve any such recommendation before funds can be expended. All expenditures pursuant to the Act will be subject to an annual audit.

In the Town of Spencer

Question 6

Shall the Town of Swampscott accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as accepted by its legislative body, 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"), establishes a dedicated funding source for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of land for recreational use; acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and rehabilitation or restoration of open space and community housing acquired or created as provided under said Act.

In Swampscott, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 1.5% on the annual tax levy on real property beginning in fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act. Only communities that adopt the Act receive a distribution from this state trust fund.

If approved, the following exemptions from such surcharge, permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act, will apply: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the town; (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 G.L. c. 59, § 2A. The surcharge to be paid by a taxpayer receiving an exemption or an abatement of real property authorized by G.L. c. 59 or any other law will be reduced in proportion to such exemption or abatement.

Upon acceptance by the voters, a Community Preservation Committee will be established by bylaw to study community preservation resources, possibilities, and needs, and will make recommendations on the use of Community Preservation Act funds. Town Meeting must approve any

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

such recommendation before the funds may be expended for any purpose. At least 10% of the funds for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's three community preservation purposes: (1) open space and recreation, (2) historic resources and (3) affordable housing.

In the Town of Swampscott

Question 6

Shall the Town of Templeton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to repair the Main Street bridge?

In the Town of Templeton

Question 6

Shall the Town of Townsend accept sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as proposed by a petition signed by at least five percent of the registered voters of the Town, 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, establish a dedicated funding source to enable cities and towns to (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for park and recreational uses and the protection of public drinking water well fields, aquifers and recharge areas, wetlands, farm land, forests, marshes, beaches, scenic areas, wildlife preserves and other conservation areas, (2) rehabilitate and restore land for recreational use, (3) acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic buildings and resources, (4) acquire, create, preserve and support affordable housing and (5) rehabilitate and restore open space and affordable housing that was acquired or created with community preservation funds.

If these sections are accepted, the funding sources for these community preservation purposes in Townsend under section 3(b) of Chapter 44B will be (1) a surcharge of 1.0% on the annual property tax assessed on real property and (2) annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act. The surcharge will be assessed starting in fiscal year 2026, which begins on July 1, 2025. The following will be exempt from the annual surcharge: (1) property owned and occupied as a domicile of a person who qualifies for low income housing, or low or moderate income senior housing, as defined in the Act; (2) the real estate tax assessed on \$100,000 of the value of each parcel of residential real property as defined for property tax classification purposes; and (3) the real estate tax assessed on \$100,000 of the value of each parcel of class three, commercial, or class four, industrial, property as defined for property tax classification purposes. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in the surcharge.

A Community Preservation Committee will be established by by-law to study community preservation resources, possibilities and needs and to make annual recommendations to town meeting on spending the funds. At least 10% of the revenues for each fiscal year will be spent or reserved for later spending on each of the Act's community preservation purposes: (1) open space including land for recreational uses, (2) historic resources and (3) affordable housing.

In the Town of Townsend

Question 6

Shall this Town amend its acceptance of sections 3 to 7, inclusive of chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body?

Summary

This question involves amendment of the Town's acceptance of G.L. c.44B, §§3-7, also known as the Community Preservation Act (the "Act") to adopt an additional exemption. The Act allows

State Election Ballot Questions -- November 5, 2024

municipalities to impose a surcharge on real property to establish a dedicated source of funds for the three purposes of the Act: open space, including land for recreational use; historic resources; and community housing. Williamstown initially accepted the Act at the 2001 Annual Town Meeting and 2002 Annual Town Election, setting the surcharge at 2% of the annual tax assessed on real property. The Town also adopted an exemption for the first \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property. The Town also receives an annual distribution from the Massachusetts Community Preservation Trust Fund that supplements the funds collected by the Town. The Community Preservation Committee, created by bylaw, makes recommendations to Town Meeting for expenditures under the Act, which, at a minimum must annually include that at least 10% of the funds be spent or reserved for later spending for each of the three purposes of the Act.

The May 23, 2024 Annual Town Meeting voted under Article 35 to accept another exemption from the Act, G.L. c.44B, §3(e)(1), for any property owned and occupied as a domicile by a person who would qualify for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in Williamstown. Low income housing is defined, in part, as, "housing for those persons and families whose annual income is less than 80 per cent of the areawide median income" as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Low or moderate income senior housing is defined as "housing for those persons having reached the age of 60 or over who would qualify for low or moderate income housing."

In the Town of Williamstown

Question 6

Shall Winchester accept sections 3 to 7 inclusive of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by its legislative body at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting, 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, establish a dedicated funding source to acquire and preserve open space, parks and conservation land, protect public drinking water supplies and scenic areas, protect farmland and forests from future development, restore and preserve historic properties, and help meet local families' housing needs. In Winchester, the Community Preservation Act will be funded by an additional excise of 1.5% on the annual tax levy on real property to be assessed beginning in fiscal year 2026, and by annual distributions provided by the state. The Winchester Town Meeting has also accepted the following exemptions from such surcharge permitted under Section 3(e) of said Act: property owned and occupied as a domicile by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property; and \$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 said Chapter 59. A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge. A Community Preservation Committee composed of local citizen will make recommendation on the use of the funds and all expenditures must be approved by Town Meeting.

In the Town of Winchester

Question 6

Shall the Town of Winthrop be allowed to assess an additional \$4,950,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Winthrop Public Schools Operating Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025?

In the Town of Winthrop

QUESTION 6 or 7

THIS QUESTION IS NOT BINDING

Shall the Representative for this District be instructed to vote for legislation to create a single-payer system of universal health care that provides all Massachusetts residents with comprehensive health care coverage including the freedom to choose doctors and other health care professionals, facilities, and services and eliminates the role of insurance companies in health care by creating an insurance trust fund that is publicly administered?

- Third Berkshire Representative District
 - (Question 7 in Sheffield)
- Fifth Essex Representative District
- Third Hampden Representative District
- Fourth Hampden Representative District
- Third Middlesex Representative District
- Tenth Middlesex Representative District
- Twenty-Fourth Middlesex Representative District
- Seventh Norfolk Representative District
- Second Suffolk Representative District
- Tenth Suffolk Representative District
- Fourteenth Suffolk Representative District

QUESTION 7

THIS QUESTION IS NOT BINDING

Shall the State Representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of legislation that would support the development of SouthCoast Wind and Commonwealth Wind and other possible future offshore and onshore wind power developments in Massachusetts?

- Fourth Barnstable Representative District