

# AN ACT TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REVENUE (HD 2225 & SD 588)



## **Please co-sponsor “An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue” filed by Representatives Stephen Kulik & Kevin Honan (HD 2225) and Senator Cynthia Stone Creem (SD 588)**

Nearly half the cities and towns in Massachusetts rely on critical local aid from the Statewide CPA Trust Fund. CPA creates jobs, economic development and preserves 172 communities representing 60% of the state’s population. The foundation of CPA is the promise of a strong state/local partnership for funding the program. Each CPA community voted to add a small surcharge to local property taxes and, in exchange, the state committed to provide matching funds. With increasing numbers of communities realizing the benefits of the program, this partnership is now in jeopardy.

To bolster the trust fund, the legislature approved short-term funding from the state’s budget surplus for each of the last three fiscal years. However, because there was no budget surplus in FY16, the CPA Trust Fund distribution fell to a record low of 20%. In order to sustain CPA for the benefit of all communities, legislation increasing the program’s dedicated funding component – recording fees at the state’s Registries of Deeds– must be passed. Our goal is to provide a minimum 50% base match to all 172 CPA cities and towns.

### *What is CPA?*

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a state law passed in 2000 that allows an adopting community to establish a dedicated local fund for open space, historic preservation, community housing, and outdoor recreation projects. CPA is adopted through a local ballot referendum to add a small surcharge on property taxes, with the state providing matching amounts each year from the CPA Trust Fund.



### *The Impact Statewide*

172 cities and towns (49% of the state’s municipalities) have adopted CPA and collectively raised \$1.75 billion dollars for Community Preservation. Sixty percent of the state’s population lives in a CPA community.

Over 9,000 completed CPA projects have:

- helped develop 10,000 housing units
- protected 26,000 acres of open space
- preserved 4,400 historic resources
- initiated 1,700 recreation projects



# CPA

**Critical Local Aid for  
Massachusetts Communities**

