

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHELSEA CITY COUNCIL PASSES COMMUNITY PRESERVATION
ACT;
PLACES REFERENDUM QUESTION ON NOVEMBER PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION FOR 1.5% SURCHARGE TO HELP CREATE AFFORDABLE
HOUSING, OPEN SPACE AND PRESERVE HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

Chelsea, MA – The Chelsea City Council unanimously passed an ordinance at their Monday, April 23rd meeting that will place the Community Preservation Act referendum question on the ballot in the upcoming November Presidential Election. Chelsea voters will decide whether or not to allow a 1.5% surcharge on real estate property that would be used to preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities.

“We have been hearing from our constituents and stakeholders constantly about our communities need for more open space and skyrocketing rents and cost of homes. Despite Chelsea’s expenditure in renovating parks and a local non-profit developer building affordable units, we feel more can be and should be done.” said Roy Avellaneda, Chelsea City Councilor At Large who co-sponsored the ordinance. “The CPA provides us another tool in addressing those needs.”

The measure passed on Monday did include an exemption for the first \$100,000 in value for both residential and commercial properties. If passed, the CPA would generate an estimated \$500K annually. The City of Chelsea estimates a single family homeowner would see a \$36 surcharge annually.

“In light of this City Council recently voting to increase the owner occupant tax exemption by \$450, I think its fair to ask that homeowners give back \$36 to make their community a better place to live for working class families.” said Avellaneda

"Many Chelsea residents have been asking for more spending on open space and historical spaces and putting the CPA on the ballot is a great way to get the community involved in this conversation." said co-sponsor District 3 Councilor Matt Frank. "The fund would be controlled by members of the community and has the potential to transform sites across the city."

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