

# SUPPORT AN ACT TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REVENUE

## **What is the Community Preservation Act (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, affordable 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.

## **172 Communities rely on critical matching funds from the CPA Trust Fund**

The CPA Trust Fund, which provides matching funds to CPA communities, is a powerful incentive for cities and towns to pass and to retain the CPA. It is funded through a \$20 surcharge on most documents filed at the Registry of Deeds. The amount of this fee has stayed the same since the CPA passed in 2000. In recent years the base CPA Trust Fund distribution for most communities has declined from 100% to a record-low of 20.6% in 2016 and the Department of Revenue projects that in the fall of 2018 the first-round match will be 11.5%. In order to sustain the CPA Trust Fund the fee must be raised.

## **Support Passage of An Act to Sustain Community Preservation Revenue (H.2615/S.1504)**

The legislation calls for an increase to the recording fees that would provide all current CPA communities a 50% first round distribution – enough to motivate current CPA communities to continue their work and new communities to participate.

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