Community Preservation Act

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the City of Beverly 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?

Yes ⬭

No ⬭

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE

"Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act (Act), establish a dedicated funding source to enable cities and towns to (1) acquire 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) acquire and restore historic buildings and sites, and (3) create affordable housing.

In Beverly, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 1 % on the annual property tax assessed on real property and annual distributions made by the state from a trust fund created by the Act. If approved, the following will be exempt from the 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 the City of Beverly, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; (2) $100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property.) A taxpayer receiving a regular property tax abatement or exemption will also receive a pro rata reduction in surcharge.

A Community Preservation Committee will be established by ordinance to study community preservation resources, possibilities and needs and to make annual recommendations to city council on spending the funds. 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 (excluding land for recreational use) (2) historic resources and (3) affordable housing."

The question is approved and the statute accepted if a majority of the voters voting on the ballot question vote "yes."