

# Ballot question proposal for the November 5th 2024 State Election

We, the undersigned registered voters in the Town of Colrain request that the following question be placed on the ballot at the November 5th 2024 State Election:

“Shall the Town of Colrain accept sections 3 to 7 inclusive of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, a summary of which appears below?

Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act, (hereinafter “the Act”) establish a dedicated funding source to enable cities and towns to (1) acquire, create and preserve open space, which includes land for parks, recreational uses, conservation areas and the protection of drinking water supplies, and rehabilitate local parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields; (2) acquire, preserve, rehabilitate and restore historic buildings and resources; and (3) create and preserve affordable housing.

In Colrain, the funding source for these community preservation purposes will be a surcharge of 3.0% 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. 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 qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing in the Town of Colrain, as defined in Section 2 of said Act; \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential property; \$100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of class three, commercial property, 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.

Upon acceptance by the voters, a Community Preservation Committee will be established by town by-law, composed of local citizens, to study community preservation resources, possibilities and needs, and to make annual recommendations to Town Meeting on the use of the funds. All expenditures must be approved by Town Meeting.

### Signers' Statement

We the undersigned, are qualified voters of this town and in accordance with the provisions of law, request that the ballot question shown above be added to the ballot for the November 5th, 2024 State Election.

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**Certification of names**

We certify that \_\_\_\_\_  
signatures thus checked (√) are the names of voters of  
the Town of Colrain

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Colrain Registrars of Voters  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date