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TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*  
FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services  
DATE: September 27, 2019  
RE: Informational – Language for the Community Preservation Act Ballot Question.

As the Council is aware, this year's ballot will contain the ballot question on whether or not to adopt the Community Preservation Act in the form approved by the Council. Below is the exact language that will appear on the November ballot:

#### BINDING BALLOT QUESTION

Question:

Shall the City of Lowell accept Sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of Chapter 44B of the General Laws, as approved by the Lowell City Council, a summary of which appears below?

Summary:

Sections 3 to 7 of Chapter 44B of the General Laws of Massachusetts, also known as the Community Preservation Act, establish a dedicated funding source to acquire and preserve open space, parks and conservation land, protect public drinking water supplies and scenic areas, protect farmland and forests from future development, restore and preserve historic properties, and help meet local families' housing needs.

In the City of Lowell, the Community Preservation Act will be funded by an additional excise of 1% on the annual tax levy on real property to be assessed beginning in fiscal year 2020, and by annual distributions provided by the state. If approved, the following will be exempt from this surcharge:

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, as defined in Section 2 of said Act;  
class three, commercial, and class four, industrial, properties as defined in G.L. c.59, §2A;

\$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 composed of local citizens will make recommendations on the use of the funds. All expenditures must be approved by the City Council.

ES

09/27/2019