



Legislation Summary:

An Act to increase community preservation revenue

Initial bill number(s): H2933 (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Rep. John H. Rogers

This bill amends the statute governing surcharges and fees of the Registers of Deeds, the revenue that funds the state match for local revenue dedicated to Community Preservation. These funds are dedicated to affordable housing, open space, recreation, and historic preservation. In recent years, as more communities have joined the program, there has been a large drop in the funds that go to each town or city. The surcharge over the fee to the Register of Deeds or Assistant Recorder would be \$80 for each document and \$40 for each municipal lien. There are some exemptions including mortgages of public agencies.

There is a great need for additional affordable (subsidized) housing across the Commonwealth. Additional revenue dedicated toward affordable housing would allow local communities to acquire or build units at a faster rate. The other purposes for Community Preservation funds (open space, recreation and historic preservation) are also supported by the League as designated by local communities.

League position

LWVMA supports these bills based on its national Meeting Basic Human Needs position. From [Impact on Issues](#), Meeting Basic Human Needs, Criteria for Housing Supply

“The following considerations can be applied to programs and policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family:

- The responsibility for achieving national housing goals rests primarily with the federal government...
- State and local governments should assist by establishing effective agencies to aid, promote, coordinate, and supplement the housing programs of the federal government and the private sector.
- Government at all levels must make available sufficient funds for housing-assistance programs.
- When families or individuals cannot afford decent housing, the government should provide assistance in the form of income and/or subsidized housing.” (p. 146)