

MACDC Advocacy Agenda: An Overview

The Massachusetts Legislature began a new two-year session in January 2019. Based on conversations and feedback from our members and the core priorities in our Strategic Plan, we have identified the following advocacy agenda.

Our Top Priorities:

Neighborhood Stabilization and Economic Development: The Greater Boston region has a housing shortage, but some Gateway Cities and rural towns in our Commonwealth are facing another housing crisis: *distressed vacant housing that continues to deteriorate, cause blight and further weaken a struggling housing market.* Rep. Anthony Cabral and Sen. Brendan Crighton introduced legislation, *An Act Relative to Neighborhood Stabilization and Economic Development (H.177/S.1627)* to address this challenge.

Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA) Program: In order to stabilize the SBTA Program, we are advocating for increased funding to \$4 million in FY 2020 (line item 7002-0040) - up from \$2 million in FY 2010 - through a dedicated revenue stream from the Gaming Commission Economic Development Fund.

Community Preservation Act (CPA): There is growing momentum to secure increased state matching dollars for CPA. Sen. Cynthia Creem and Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante have filed legislation to increase the deeds fee to \$75 (S.1618/H.2463). We also will work to achieve program reforms to ensure that cities and towns meet their obligation to spend at least 10% of their CPA funds on housing.

A Comprehensive Four-Step Agenda to Meet Our Commonwealth's Housing Needs:

- *Step One* – Fix our zoning and land use laws, so we can expand housing opportunities;
- *Step Two* - Protect tenants facing eviction and displacement;
- *Step Three* – Secure new revenue to fund affordable housing;
- *Step Four* – Restore abandoned and poor-quality housing in weak housing markets.

For more information, please refer to fact sheets
for each of MACDC's top advocacy priorities at [www. macdc.org/2019-2020-advocacy-agenda](http://www.macdc.org/2019-2020-advocacy-agenda)

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