

It's Time for Everyone in Massachusetts to Have Access to Housing Court

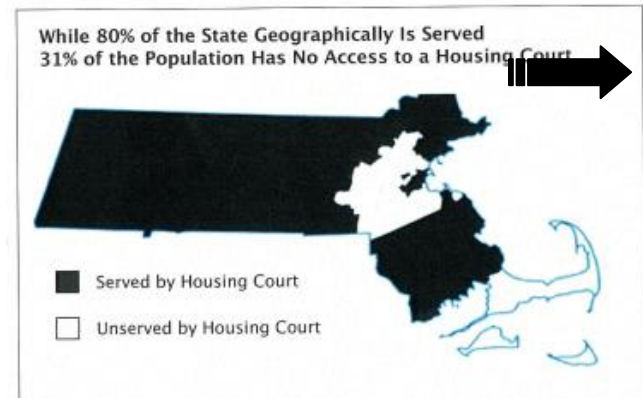
Co-Sponsor Rep Walsh's FY18 Budget Amendment to Fund Housing Court Expansion Statewide

Time to Close the Gap

Governor Baker's FY18 budget includes housing court expansion and recognizes that it is time to close the gap. **Line Item 0336-0003** in the Governor's budget provides \$1 million for costs associated with the expansion of the housing court.

Who Does Not Have a Housing Court?

How can it be that 2/3rds of the state's population has access to a housing court and 1/3rd does not?



The first housing court was established in Boston in 1972. Since then, constituents have successfully advocated for its expansion to five geographic divisions. In FY2001, an outside section of the budget expanded Hampden Housing Court to become Western Housing Court. Today, over 100 organizations are seeking a final expansion to cover all of Norfolk, Suffolk, Middlesex, Barnstable, Nantucket, and Dukes counties.

Why Do We Need Housing Courts Statewide

Landlords, tenants, municipalities, and the state, all stand to benefit from a statewide housing court.

- ◆ **Housing Expertise & Housing Specialist:** Housing Court judges have expertise on housing law and only Housing Courts have housing specialists who mediate cases, saving the time and expense of litigation.
- ◆ **Homelessness:** Based only in Housing Courts, the Tenancy Preservation Program prevents homelessness among people with mental health challenges, age impairments, and dementia.
- ◆ **Code Enforcement & Blight:** Housing Court is set up to efficiently respond to emergencies and building, fire, and sanitary code violations and revitalize dilapidated properties and improve neighborhoods and local tax collection.
- ◆ **Cost Effective:** Housing Court has the lowest cost per case across all court departments.

Sign-on to Rep Chris Walsh's budget amendment for \$1.2 million to fund housing court expansion and outside section amendments to authorize the expansion to start January 2018.

Deadline: Wed. April 12 at 5 pm.

Over 130 Organizations Call for Housing Court Statewide

- Adams & Sammon
- Advocates, Inc - Framingham
- American Friends Service Cmt – Cambridge
- Avon Board of Health
- Barnstable Cnty Dept of Health & Environment
- Barnstable Town Council (Resolution)
- Bay Cove Human Services, Inc
- Belmont Board of Health
- Belmont Board of Selectman (Resolution)
- Belmont Fire Depart, Fire Prevention Bureau
- Berkshire Housing Development Corp.
- Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
- Boston Bar Association
- Boston Center for Independent Living
- Bourne Housing Authority
- Brazilian Women's Group, Brighton
- Broadway Glenn Tenant Council, Chelsea
- Brokerick Bankcroft, Attorneys at Law, Newton
- Brookline Council on Aging
- Brookline Public Health Depart - Environmental Health Division
- Cambridge City Council
- Cape & Island Health Agents Coalition
- Cape & Islands Regional Network on Homelessness
- Cape Cod Council of Churches
- Casa Myrna Vazquez
- Centro Latino, Chelsea
- Chatham Health Division
- Chelsea City Council (Resolution)
- Chelsea City Manager, Thomas G. Ambrosino
- Chelsea Collaborative
- Chelsea Community Connection Coalition
- Chelsea Fire Department
- Chelsea Inspectional Services Department
- Chelsea Police Department
- Chelsea Public Schools
- Chelsea Senior Center
- Citizens Housing and Planning Association
- Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc
- Community Action Programs Inter-City in Revere, Winthrop & Chelsea
- Community Labor United
- Community Teamwork, Inc.
- Duffy Health Center, Hyannis
- Elder Services of Cape Cod & Islands
- Eliot Community Human Services
- Everett, Mayor Carl DeMaria
- Father Bill's and Mainspring, Brockton
- Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts
- Fire Prevention Association of Massachusetts
- Framingham Board of Selectman
- Framingham Disability Commission
- Framingham Town Meeting Resolution
- Greater Boston Legal Services
- HarborCOV: Communities Overcoming Violence
- HAPHousing
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau
- Harwich Fire Department
- Homelessness Prevention Council of Lower Cape Cod
- Homes for Families
- HomeStart, Inc.
- Housing Assistance Corp.
- Housing Families, Inc
- Housing for All Corporation
- Housing Solutions for Southeastern Massachusetts
- Irene Bagdoian, Attorney at Law, Brockton
- Jane Doe, Inc.
- Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
- Just-A-Start Corporation
- Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts
- La Comunidad, Everett
- Law Office of Christopher T. Saccardi
- Law Office of Heather M. Ward
- Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School
- Lexington, Office of Selectman
- Mace Tenant Council, Chelsea
- Major City Police Chiefs Association
- Malden Mayor Christenson
- Margolis Tenant Council, Chelsea
- Mass. Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
- Mass. Association of Hispanic Attorneys
- Mass. Association of Public Health Nurses
- Mass. Chapter of NAHRO (National Assoc. of Housing and Redevelopment Officials)
- Mass. Environmental Health Association
- Mass. Municipal Lawyers Association
- Mass. Union of Public Housing Tenants
- Mass. Association of Health Boards
- Mass. Bar Association
- Mass. Coalition for the Homeless
- Mass. Communities Action Network
- Mass. Health Officers Association
- Mass. Jobs With Justice
- Mass. Law Reform Institute
- Medfield Board of Selectman
- Metro Credit Union, Chelsea
- Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership
- MetroWest Legal Services
- Metrowest Workers Center, Framingham
- Milton Board of Health
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys – Massachusetts Chapter
- Neighbor to Neighbor, Massachusetts
- New Chelsea Realty
- Newton City Council (Resolution)
- People's A.M.E. Church, Chelsea
- Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts
- Project Hope
- Quincy Health Department
- RCAP Solutions, Inc.
- Regional Housing Network of Massachusetts
- ROCA
- Rosie's Place, Boston
- Sandwich Housing Authority
- SEUI 32BJ New England District 615
- Somerville Board of Aldermen
- Somerville Homeless Coalition
- Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
- South Middlesex Opportunity Council
- Spencer Board of Health
- Springfield Housing Authority
- Springwell - Waltham
- St. Luke's-San Lucas, Episcopal Church, Chelsea
- Suffolk University Legal Services
- The Neighborhood Developers, Chelsea
- The Second Step – Newton
- Town of Bedford, Town Manager
- Town of Halifax, Health Agent
- Town of Lexington, Town Manager's Office
- Town of Norwood, Board of Health
- UNITE HERE Local 26
- Watertown Council (Resolution)
- Wellfleet Boad of Selectman (Resolution)
- Wellfleet Housing Authority
- Westford Health Department
- Winchester Board of Health
- Winchester Board of Selectman
- Winchester Housing Partnership Board
- Yarmouth Fire Department
- Yarmouth Health Department

April 10, 2018