

## Summary for proposed legislation

### Special Legislation changing Dukes County Treasurer from elected to appointed

The purpose of this legislation is to change the position of Dukes County Treasurer from an elected position to an appointed position, with the elected Dukes County Commissioners (the “Commissioners”) holding the power of appointment. We would be asking the State Legislature to authorize the enactment of this legislation, provided a majority of the voters in Dukes County voting at the November 5, 2024, state election vote “yes” on this question.

The Commissioners decided to seek approval of this change from the state legislature after many discussions and lengthy consideration at public meetings over the past year. The primary reasons the Commissioners decided to seek authority to change the Treasurer’s position to an appointed one are as follows.

In 2010, Division of Local Services of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (“DOR”) conducted a Financial Management Review of the County of Dukes County (the “County”) to evaluate whether the County was up to date in meeting its financial planning needs. DOR produced an advisory report to assist the County and the Commissioners. DOR recommended (recommendation number 18) that the County establish the treasurer as an appointed position. The report stated: “This recommendation is not a reflection on the performance of the current treasurer, who we feel is a valuable asset to the county. However, at an opportune time in the future (e.g. upon retirement), we recommend that the county file special legislation to convert the elected treasurer to one appointed by the county manager. As an appointed position, the county can establish minimum job qualifications, conduct an extensive interview process and complete a background check of potential candidates. With access to a broader pool of candidates, the county can attract a person with the strongest credentials and /or most relevant professional experience.”

Consistent with DOR’s recommendation, the Commissioners and the County Manager have come to the conclusion, after much discussion and reflection, that the demands of the Treasurer’s position, at this juncture, require a unique skillset and a certain level of education or professional experience and training which cannot necessarily be obtained by merely opening the position up for election. The Commissioners and the County Manager recognized the value of the DOR recommendation and concur that having the flexibility to seek, interview, select and appoint the Treasurer would provide the best opportunity to hire a candidate with the qualifications necessary to meet the demands of the job in this date and age, and to manage the ever increasing complexity of the County’s finances. The Commissioners believe that having the flexibility to appoint a Treasurer will best serve the needs of the citizens of this County.