

## Housing Choice Initiative

Thursday, May 17, 2018 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

[26 Court St, 1st Floor](#), Winter Chambers, Boston, MA

### Description:

After this seminar, attendees will know about the initiative, including how communities can access incentives and rewards for producing or planning for housing. Attendees will also learn about technical assistance being made available to communities to help them plan for growth. Finally, the seminar will provide information on zoning reform legislation introduced by the Governor, An Act to Promote Housing Choices, that would help boost housing production by lowering the voting requirement for certain types of zoning ordinances and bylaws to a simple majority vote.

### Speakers:

- **Chris Kluchman**
  - [Department of Housing & Community Development](#)
- **Roberta Rubin**
  - [Department of Housing & Community Development](#)

### Background Information:

*The Baker-Polito Administration has identified inadequate housing production as one of the core challenges facing the Commonwealth's families and economy. The Commonwealth must build more diverse housing stock to support our growing economy and to provide our changing population with housing choices. Municipalities are drivers for whether or not housing is built because of their role in zoning and permitting, and cities and towns must be partners if the Commonwealth is to successfully overcome these housing challenges.*

*State and local governments need to work together to meet this challenge. In order to do this, the Administration has created the **Housing Choice Initiative**; a multi-pronged effort to align resources and data to create a single point of entry for communities seeking assistance in increasing their supply housing. An important part of Housing Choice Initiative is the Housing Choice designation and capital grant program to reward local governments that have produced significant housing over the last five years. The Housing Choice Program Director will coordinate and promote technical assistance and*

*grants related to housing and planning for local governments, making sure that funds are used efficiently and help local governments remove obstacles to produce housing.*

*Another element of the Housing Choice Initiative is legislation proposed by Governor Baker which will facilitate the construction of 135,000 new units of housing over the next 6-7 years. Limits on supply are driving up prices, reducing inventory, and pricing too many people out of the housing market. We need more supply. "An Act to Promote Housing Choices" (H. 4290) amends MGL Chapter 40A to reduce the threshold for votes needed by local legislative bodies to amend zoning from the current supermajority of 2/3 to a simple majority for certain zoning amendments that will increase housing production, for example, adopting a 40R Smart Growth District*

Materials will be provided to registrants for this FREE event via the MMLA website/materials link. So be sure to rsvp!

### **Registration Categories:**

#### MMLA

Member – Free. Included as part of your membership. Bring others from your community (planners, administrators, board members, etc.- feel free to forward to them this email) interested in this topic. To help us plan for seating, etc., please rsvp if you are planning on attending.

Submit separately for each person registering. **To register copy, paste and complete the following information into the body of an email and send to:**

[reservations@massmunilaw.org](mailto:reservations@massmunilaw.org) or fax or mail your reservation in to the MMLA Office.

1) Name:

2) Email:

3) Phone:

4) Employer:

5) Municipality/Agency:

6) Amount: FREE, FREE, FREE

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