

[PROPOSED]
Cambridge Democratic City Committee
Resolution in Support of Massachusetts House Bill H.3924
September 10, 2020

- WHEREAS: Massachusetts House Bill H.3924, An Act Enabling Local Options for Tenant Protections, has been reported favorably out of the Joint Committee on Housing by a vote of 13 in favor and 2 opposed; and
- WHEREAS: H.3924 would give municipalities like Cambridge a flexible set of tools needed to prevent displacement & homelessness, reduce the phenomenon of heavy rent-burden, and protect renters; and
- WHEREAS: While H.3924 does not reinstate previous rent control ordinances or require municipalities to enact specific tenant protections, it would empower them with the flexibility to address the housing emergency that exists across the commonwealth in a locally appropriate manner by removing current state-level restrictions, meaning the City of Cambridge would retain the responsibility of deliberating on and approving of any changes that are ultimately made; and
- WHEREAS: H.3924 does not apply to multi-family housing of three or fewer dwelling units in an owner-occupied building; and
- WHEREAS: There are and always have been a range of views on the best way to address Cambridge's housing affordability crisis, but it is clear that more local options are sorely needed to ensure housing justice and affordability for tenants in Cambridge, who make up more than 60% of all residents in the city; and
- WHEREAS: The Cambridge Democratic City Committee believes that the State Legislature must act urgently to pass H.3924 and allow the City to better protect renters; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That the Cambridge Democratic City Committee supports passage of H.3924, An Act Enabling Local Options for Tenant Protections; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That this Resolution be transmitted to the members of the Massachusetts legislature representing the city of Cambridge, the Mayor of the City of Cambridge and the members of the Cambridge City Council.