

MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION TO BE VOTED UPON

Currently the Delaware Township Open Space Tax is used exclusively for acquisition. Without increasing the amount of the current Delaware Township Open Space Tax, shall the uses permitted for the Delaware Township Open Space Trust Fund be expanded to include development and improvement of municipal lands solely for recreation and conservation purposes? These uses would be in addition to continuing to preserve open space, farmland, and natural areas and for the payment of debt service or indebtedness issued or incurred by the Municipality for any of the purposes described above. All projects will be awarded through a fair and open process, acquisitions from willing sellers only, and will be funded by the existing Open Space Tax rate of .06 cents per hundred dollars of assessed property, with up to .01 cent of this total assessed tax to be available for development and improvement solely to expand or enhance conservation and recreation.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

If approved, the referendum does not increase the Delaware Township Open Space Tax rate. Presently, Delaware Township's Open Space Trust Fund is used to (a) acquire land, easements, development rights or other interests in real estate for recreation, conservation, and farmland preservation purposes and (b) to pay debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by the Township for these acquisitions. Voting "YES" on the question would allow, but not require, the Township to utilize a limited portion of the Delaware Township Open Space Trust Fund (up to .01 cent out of every .06 cents collected) for the development and improvement of all lands or interests therein acquired and to pay debt services on indebtedness issued or incurred for such development or improvements. The Township will use a fair and open process to determine how funds are allocated each year and continue to conduct an annual independent audit of how funds have been spent during the preceding year. As used herein, the word "development" means "any improvement to land acquired for recreation and conservation purposes designed solely to expand or enhance utilization for those purposes."