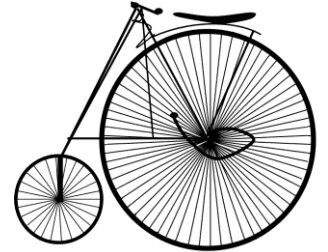


# *Eastampton Township*

## *Municipal Matters*



## Township Referendum

### An Explanation of What You Are Voting For

The Township has placed a referendum on this year's ballot asking the public to vote on allowing the township to use Open Space funds to pay for maintenance of our parks and open spaces. Below is an explanation of the referendum.

In 1998 Eastampton voters passed a referendum to raise funds through an open space tax to acquire and preserve open space. In 2001 a second referendum was passed, raising the open space tax to 20 cents. At the time, this was the largest open space tax in NJ. To date, the township has preserved approximately 1,100 acres of open space. This has benefited the residents of Eastampton by controlling the residential growth of the township. Uncontrolled growth (also known as "Suburban Sprawl") leads to the need to build additional schools, increase municipal services, and can cost tax payers millions of dollars.

We are currently paying off the debt of our open space purchases through our Open Space Trust Account. **Currently, the funds in the Open Space Trust Account can only be used for the acquisition of open space**, based on how the original referendums were worded. Funds are raised in this trust account through our local open space tax and from funding from the County Open Space Program, and the State's Green Acres Program.

We have been able to lower the local open space tax from a high of 19 cents in 2002 to 4.2 cents in this year's budget. We can do this because of the additional funds we receive from the County Open Space Program and from the Green Acres Program.

**What we would like to do now is use some of the funds in the Open Space Trust Account to help pay for the maintenance of our parks and open spaces.** Specifically, our Public Works Department spends roughly 25-30% of their time maintaining our parks and open spaces. Considering what our Public Works department costs in salaries, benefits, and operating expenses, this translates to approximately \$86,000 annually. We can only make this change to how we utilize the Open Space Trust Account by voter approval.

With the local open space tax at 4.2 cents, and with the funds received from the County and the State, we can afford to do this and meet our debt obligations on open space without raising the open space tax. **Passing this referendum will allow us to use the Open Space Trust Account funds that have already been raised to pay for a portion of our Public Works costs.**

Passing this referendum does not automatically mean that taxes will be reduced. What it does mean is that approximately \$86,000 annually will not have to be raised in new taxes; there are enough funds in our Open Space Trust Account to pay for this without raising the local open space tax.

**This referendum has the unanimous support of the Township Council.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the township staff at the Manor House.

#### Township Council

Keith Nagler, Mayor \* Jay Springer, Deputy Mayor \* Louise Campbell \* Joseph Maroccia \* Walt Tafe

*Eastampton Township*

*12 Manor House Court  
Eastampton, NJ 08060*

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MT. HOLLY, NJ

## *Municipal Services*

### **Manor House**

12 Manor House Court  
(609) 267-5723  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 am -  
4:30pm

### **Police Department**

725 Smithville Road  
(609) 267-1717  
Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00pm

**WWW.EASTAMPTON .COM**

Please visit our website for important information on all municipal services, including:

- Leaf Collection Schedule and Information
- Recreation Programs
- Construction/Zoning Information
- Vital Statistics
- Dog License and Rabies Clinic
- Township News and Events

