

# **State, County and Municipal Public Questions 2017**

## **State Public Question No. 1**

### **New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act**

Do you approve the "New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act"? This bond act authorizes the State to issue bonds in the aggregate principal amount of \$125 million. The proceeds of the bonds will be used to provide grants to public libraries. The grants will be used to build, equip, and expand public libraries to increase capacity and serve the public.

### **Interpretive Statement**

Approval of this bond act will allow the State to sell \$125 million in State general obligation bonds. Proceeds from the bonds will be used to provide grants to construct, expand, and equip public libraries. Municipalities or counties that fund public libraries will match the grant amount. The municipality or county may solicit private funding to support its match. The State Librarian, in consultation with the President of Thomas Edison State University, will set eligibility criteria for the grants.

## **State Public Question No. 2**

### **Constitutional Amendment Dedicating Moneys from State Environmental Contamination Cases**

Do you approve amending the Constitution to dedicate all moneys collected by the State relating to natural resource damages in cases of contamination of the environment? The moneys would have to be used to repair, restore, replace, or preserve the State's natural resources. The moneys may also be used to pay legal or other costs incurred by the State in pursuing its claims.

### **Interpretive Statement**

This amendment would dedicate moneys collected by the State relating to natural resource damages through settlements or awards for legal claims based on environmental contamination. These moneys would be dedicated to repair, replace, or restore damaged natural resources, or to preserve the State's natural resources. The moneys would be spent in an area as close as possible to the geographical area in which the damage occurred. The moneys could also be used to pay for the State's legal or other costs in pursuing the claims. Currently, these moneys may be used for any State purpose.

## **County of Monmouth**

### **Open Space Proposal**

Should the County of Monmouth increase its dedication to the Monmouth County Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund from the previously approved and implemented annual levy of 1.5 cents per \$100 of equalized valuation to 2.75 cents per \$100 of equalized valuation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.2(e), with the annual levy to be used for any or all of the purposes set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.2(a) (1)?

### **Explanatory Statement**

This proposition would approve an increase in the annual collection rate from 1.5 cents per \$100 of equalized valuation to 2.75 cents per \$100 of equalized valuation through which the County of Monmouth funds the Monmouth County Open Space Trust Fund. The Open Space Trust Fund supports the current program to acquire and preserve open space for County park and recreational areas, to conserve natural resources and to protect water quality, to develop and maintain the system of County public recreation, which includes those County lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes, to acquire easements to preserve County farmland, and to participate in cooperative park and recreation projects with Monmouth County municipalities, thereby permanently preserving these areas, providing recreational opportunities, conserving natural resources and protecting water quality for future generations of Monmouth County residents. Increasing the rate will enable the funding for open space acquisition to keep pace with rising land costs and with the loss of land to development.

## **Colts Neck Township**

### **Question No.1**

Should the Township of Colts Neck Increase the annual levy for Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation, within the Township of Colts Neck from the amount of \$0.012 per \$100 to the amount of \$0.025 per \$100 of assessed valuation of real property?

### **Explanatory Statement**

The proposed referendum seeks to increase the dedicated farmland, open space and historic preservation tax from the current \$0.012 to \$0.025 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The increase is being proposed to provide additional funds to afford the Township the ability to acquire additional land dedicated for farmland, open space and/or historic preservation, in furtherance of the Township's commitment to maintaining the rural character of the Township by preserving open space.

For an average home assessed at \$800,000, this would increase the tax payment from \$96 per year to \$200 per year. Revenues from this dedicated open space tax will be used for farmland, open space and historic preservation, including debt service.

## **Loch Arbour Village**

### **Question No.1**

The Loch Arbour Board of Education was formed as a new school district on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Five Board members were appointed, however it is required that at the first annual school election the voters shall decide if the Board shall consist of three, five, seven, or nine members.

### **VOTER INSTRUCTION: VOTE FOR ONE OPTION**

The Loch Arbour School District should be comprised of **three** Board members.

The Loch Arbour School District should be comprised of **five** Board members.

The Loch Arbour School District should be comprised of **seven** Board members.

The Loch Arbour School District should be comprised of **nine** Board members.

## **Ocean Township**

### **Question No.1**

Shall the Township of Ocean establish an Open Space Preservation Program to acquire, preserve and improve lands for open space, conservation, recreation and parkland by annually levying a sum equal to the rate of \$.01 per \$100.00 of assessed value of real property?

### **Interpretive Statement**

This non-binding question affects the Township of Ocean only, unlike any other question that may be on today's ballot. Limited to the acquisition, preservation and improvement of open space and parklands in the Township of Ocean, Implementing the Open Space Tax would cost a Township of Ocean homeowner ten dollars for each \$100,000 of assessed valuation.

## **Shrewsbury Township**

### **Proposal**

Shall Shrewsbury Township restore public garbage collection to Alfred Vail Mutual Association, Shrewsbury Arms and Shrewsbury Woods, estimated to cost the municipality an additional \$100,760.00 per year, with an increase of approximately 10% per year thereafter?

### **Explanatory Statement**

Garbage collection has been handled by the private entities of Shrewsbury Township since 2011, and a change to public garbage collection would cause an \$18.66 addition to the tax rate, or an additional \$247.00 per year in taxes for each household assessed at \$130,000.00, with an approximate 10% increase per year thereafter, and would require a subsequent binding referendum in 2018 if approved, and major cuts to the budget in 2018.