

## **PUBLIC NOTICE TO HUNTERDON COUNTY VOTERS NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION**

A General Election will be held on November 4, 2008 between the hours of 6:00AM and 8:00PM. The several State, County and local positions are for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts. In addition, the following Public Questions will also be voted on:

One (1) US President & Vice President  
One (1) US Senator  
One (1) US Congressman

One (1) Freeholder  
One (1) Surrogate

### **STATE PUBLIC QUESTION #1**

**VOTERS TO APPROVE STATE AUTHORITY BONDS PAYABLE FROM STATE APPROPRIATIONS:**

Do you approve the proposed amendment to the State Constitution which provides that, after this amendment becomes part of the Constitution, a law enacted thereafter that authorizes State debt created through the sale of bonds by any autonomous public corporate entity, established either as an instrumentality of the State or otherwise exercising public and essential governmental functions, such as an independent State authority, which debt or liability has a pledge of an annual appropriation as the ways and means to pay the interest of such debt or liability as it falls due and pay and discharge the principal of such debt, will be subject to voter approval, unless the payment of the debt is made subject to appropriations of an independent non-State source of revenue paid by third person for the use of the object or work bonded for, or are from a source of State revenue otherwise required to be appropriated pursuant to another provision of the Constitution?

### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

This amendment to the State Constitution will require voter approval of new laws that allow the State to borrow money by issuing bonds through any State agency or independent authority backed by a pledge of an annual appropriation to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. New laws to allow the issuance of these State authority bonds for State government purposes will be subject to voter approval. State courts have ruled that the State constitutional requirement that the Legislature and Governor must seek voter approval for bonded debt does not apply to such borrowing. That requirement is followed only for proposed State bonds that contain a binding, non-repealable pledge to pay off the bonds directly with State taxes. Most State authority bonds can be issued without voter approval because the payment of the bonds is backed only by a promise of the Legislature and the Governor that they will enact appropriations in the future to meet the bond payments. The courts have said this is a legal means of avoiding submitting the issuance of debt for voter approval. Laws to permit such debt that are enacted after this amendment becomes part of the Constitution will have to authorize voter referenda for approval of such debts.

Exceptions to voter approval for authority bonds will be permitted if the bonds are to be paid off from 1) a source of revenue dedicated by the State Constitution, which only the voters can establish, or 2) an independent non-State government source of payments for use of projects built or obtained with the borrowed money, such as highway tolls or user fees.

### **STATE PUBLIC QUESTION #2**

PROVIDES THAT METHOD OF SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGES BE SET BY STATUTE RATHER THAN BY THE CONSTITUTION:

Shall the amendment to Article VI, Section VI, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution, agreed to by the Legislature, providing that judges of inferior courts with jurisdiction extending to more than one municipality be appointed as provided in law rather than as provided in the Constitution which requires nomination by the Governor and appointment with the advice and consent of the Senate, be approved?

### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

This constitutional amendment would provide that the method of selection and appointment of certain municipal court judges would be set by statute, rather than be provided for in the Constitution. These judges may include judges of joint municipal courts and judges of central municipal courts with jurisdiction extending to the territorial boundaries of a county. This constitutional amendment does not preclude the possibility that a statute would continue to provide for nomination by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, but it does permit a statute to set forth another method of selection and appointment that may not involve the Governor and the Senate.

### **COUNTY PUBLIC QUESTION**

CONTINUATION OF HUNTERDON COUNTY OPEN SPACE, RECREATION, FARMLAND AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRUST FUND:

Shall the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders continue the current "Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" for the purposes of protecting drinking water sources and water quality; preserving open space, natural areas, farmland and historic sites; to acquire, develop, improve and maintain county and municipal lands for recreation and conservation purposes; and preservation of historic structures, properties, facilities, sites, areas, or objects; or for the payment of debt service or indebtedness issued or incurred by the County for any of the purposes described above, ; with projects to be selected through a fair and open process and to be acquired from willing sellers only, to be funded by continuing the existing annual tax assessment not to exceed the amount of Three (\$.03) Cents per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of total County equalized real property value commencing January 1, 2010, with all funds subject to an annual independent audit?

### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

A “yes” vote will permit the County to continue the existing Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Funds shall be used to:

- i) Protect drinking water sources;
- ii) Improve the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams;
- iii) Preserve open space and natural areas;
- iv) Preserve farmland;
- v) Protect wildlife habitat;
- vi) Provide park and recreation land;
- vii) Preserve historic sites;
- viii) Acquire land for other conservation, recreation, and historic preservation purposes;
- ix) Develop and maintain county and municipal lands for recreation and conservation purposes; and
- x) Pay debt service on indebtedness incurred by Hunterdon County for any of the above purposes.

Projects for this funding would be selected through a fair and open process. Land will be purchased from willing sellers only on a voluntary basis. A “yes” vote will permit the County to continue to levy no more than 3 cents per \$100 equalized real property value. There would be no increase in the current County Open Space tax rate per \$100 of assessed value. As an example, at the rate of 3 cents, the owner of a single family residential property in Hunterdon County assessed at \$306, 000.00 would continue to pay \$92.00 per year, or \$7.66 a month, to the Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Every year there will be an independent audit of how the funds were spent.

### **ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP**

1 Member of Township Committee – 3 years

### **BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee - 3 years

### **BLOOMSBURY BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council – 3 years

### **BOROUGH PUBLIC QUESTION**

Shall the Borough of Bloomsbury enter into a contract authorizing the sale of the Bloomsbury Water Department?

## **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

This question ascertains the sentiment of the voters in the Borough regarding the sale of the Water Department, in particular, its infrastructure to another public water purveyor which will thereafter provide public water to Borough residents and businesses. The transfer of title would result in elimination of the administrative functions of Borough employees affiliated with that department.

### **CALIFON BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council – 3 years

### **TOWN OF CLINTON**

2 Members of Town Council – 3 years

2 Member of Town Council – 2 year unexpired

### **CLINTON TOWNSHIP**

1 Member of Township Mayor – 3 years

### **DELAWARE TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee - 3 years

### **EAST AMWELL TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee - 3 years

### **FLEMINGTON BOROUGH**

2 Members of Common Council - 3 years

### **FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**

1 Member of Township Committee - 3 years

### **FRENCHTOWN BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council – 3 years

### **GLEN GARDNER BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council - 3 years

### **HAMPTON BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council – 3 year

### **HIGH BRIDGE BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council – 3 years

### **HOLLAND TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee – 3 years

### **KINGWOOD TOWNSHIP**

1 Member of Township Committee - 3 years

## **LAMBERTVILLE CITY**

2 Members of City Council – 3 years

### **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION**

Shall the City of Lambertville expand the purpose of the “Municipal Open Space Trust Fund” to include the purpose of additional lands for open space and to fund the maintenance and improvement of lands for recreational and conservation purposes? The passage of this question would also qualify the City to receive private and public grants for this purpose.

### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

In 2004, voters approved the public question to permit the City to impose an annual tax levy of two (\$0.02) cents per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of assessed valuation to be used exclusively for the purchase of the steep slope area of 11.13 acres behind the Lambertville Public School and Ely Field and 5.242 acres along Jefferson Road. The City purchased the property for \$1,400,000.00, which \$825,000.00 was funded through a Green Acres grant and loan. At this time it is anticipated that the above described property will be paid in full by 2010 and the Open Space Tax will expire. The City would like to expand the purpose of the initial question to permit the City to purchase additional land as the opportunity arises. Currently, the City has the opportunity to purchase 6.741 acres adjacent to the property purchased above behind the Lambertville Public School and Ely Field known as: Block 1097 Lot 7.01 (1.082 acres of land that fronts along Jean Street and Jefferson Road) and Block 1002 Lot 64 (5.659 acres of land that fronts York Street with limited frontage along Jefferson Road). In addition to funding the acquisition of open space, the City proposes to use 10% of the Open Space tax collected to maintain and improve lands acquired for recreational and conservation purposes. By approving this question, the Open Space tax would extend to permit the purchase of this additional property and allow 10% of the taxes collected to be use for maintenance and upgrades to Ely Field, Cavallo Park, Mary Sheridan Park, Arnett Park and any other open space inventory. Improvements would include, but not limited to, the purchase of playground equipment. The approval of this non-binding question will commit a dedicated source of funding that would qualify the City of Lambertville to receive grants from the Garden State Preservation Trust and Hunterdon County Open Space. The tax will expire once the City has paid for the purchase of property for said purposes.

## **LEBANON BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council - 3 years

## **LEBANON TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee – 3 years

## **MILFORD BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council - 3 years

**RARITAN TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee - 3 years

**MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION #1**

Shall the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan adopt a bond ordinance in the amount of \$819,000.00 utilizing a State Transportation Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 and \$669,000.00 debt to be authorized in order to reconstruct Everitts Road Section 2 from Lavada Lane to the county bridge?

**INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

The proposed bond ordinance would be used to reconstruct Everitts Road Section 2 from Lavada Lane to the county bridge. The estimated cost of the project is \$819,000.00. The Township has been awarded a State Transportation Fund Grant in the amount of \$150,000.00 for the project. A contract for construction must be awarded by July 23, 2009 or the grant funds will be lost.

**MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION #2**

Shall the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan adopt a bond ordinance in the amount of \$1,011,000.00 (minimum: \$48,500.00 cash down payment required, with \$962,500.00 debt to be authorized) in order to reconstruct roads in the Sunny Hills Development, Section 1 which would include Chapel View and parts of Fairview and Valley View?

**INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

The proposed bond ordinance would be used to reconstruct roads in the Sunny Hills Development (between Old Clinton Road and Cherryville Hollow Road) Section 1 which would include Chapel View and parts of Fairview and Valley View. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,011,000.00. The bond ordinance requires a down payment in the amount of \$48,500.00 which would have to be included in the 2009 budget or a future budget.

**MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION #3**

Shall the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan adopt a bond ordinance in the amount of \$430,000.00 (minimum: \$20,500.00 cash down payment required, with \$409,500.00 debt to be authorized) in order to reconstruct Dory Dilts Road Section 1 from Old York Road to a point approximately 2,300 feet east?

**INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

The proposed bond ordinance would be used to reconstruct Dory Dilts Road Section 1 and Old York Road to a point approximately 2,300 feet west. The estimated cost of the project is \$430,000.00. The bond ordinance requires a down payment in the amount of \$20,500.00 which would have to be included in the 2009 budget or a future budget.

#### **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION #4**

Shall the Township Committee of the Township of Raritan adopt a bond ordinance in the amount of \$367,000.00 (minimum: \$18,000.00 cash down payment required and \$349,000.00 debt to be authorized) in order to purchase a new dump truck to replace an existing 1970 model year truck and a new street sweeper to replace an existing 1994 model for the Public Works Department?

#### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

The proposed bond ordinance would be used to purchase a new dump truck to replace an existing 1970 model year truck, and to purchase a new street sweeper to replace an existing 1994 model for the Public Works Department. The estimated cost of the purchase is \$367,000.00. The bond ordinance requires a down payment in the amount of \$18,000.00 which would have to be included in the 2009 budget or a future budget.

#### **READINGTON TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee - 3 years

#### **STOCKTON BOROUGH**

2 Members of Borough Council – 3 years

1 Member of Borough Council – 1 year unexpired

#### **TEWKSBURY TOWNSHIP**

1 Member of Township Committee - 3 years

#### **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION**

Shall the Township of Tewksbury be authorized to impose an additional annual real property tax levy at a rate not exceeding \$0.03 annually for a period not to exceed 10 years for any one of the following purposes or a combination of them:

- (a) Acquisition of lands for recreation or conservation purposes.
- (b) Acquisition of farmland for farmland preservation purposes.
- (c) Payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred for the purposes described in (a) and/or (b) above.
- (d) Stewardship of public lands after acquisition.
- (e) This additional cumulative tax shall sunset in 2018.

#### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

This ballot question is submitted to the voters under chapter 24 of the Public Laws of 1997. The Township already has a trust fund based on a present authorization from the voters to levy a tax for purposes A, B and C above at a rate not to exceed \$0.05 per \$100.00 of assessed value. If this ballot question passes, the Township would be authorized to increase the tax levy to an amount not to exceed \$0.08 per \$100.00 annually in 2009 and may increase by up to an additional \$0.03 in each of the next nine years. The money raised by this separate tax levy is, by law, placed in a separate Township trust fund. The money placed in the trust fund, and any interest earned on it, can be used only for the purposes authorized (that is, for acquisition of land, development rights, or easements, for recreational, conservation, or farmland

preservation purposes, or payment of bonded or other indebtedness or for stewardship purposes). Acquisition of land, development rights or easements funded through the trust fund cannot be sold unless replaced by lands, rights or easements of like or greater value acquired through sources other than the trust fund. This additional assessment will sunset not later than 10 years after adoption.

### **UNION TOWNSHIP**

2 Members of Township Committee – 3 years

1 Member of Township Committee – 1 year unexpired

### **MUNICIPAL PUBLIC QUESTION**

Shall the governing body of the Township of Union, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey increase the current open space annual property tax levy from \$0.02 to \$0.04 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation to provide for the costs of the Township's Open Space Trust Fund Program, with the entire proceeds of such proposed \$0.04 levy to be used exclusively for reducing the Township's existing open space debt, and with such increase to be terminated upon the payoff of such debt.

### **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT**

In order to accelerate the reduction of Union Township's annual debt service for already preserved open space, including primarily the Milligan Farm, the Township of Union is proposing to increase the current open space tax levy from \$0.02 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation up to \$0.04 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. The entire levy of up to \$0.04 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation would be used only for open space debt reduction. Once the open space debt has been eliminated, the open space tax levy would automatically be reduced to its current rate of \$0.02 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation and be used only for future purchases of additional open space. Currently, taxpayers are paying for this debt service through general funds in the municipal budget. State mandatory cap limits and ever decreasing State Aid to Municipalities creates an adverse effect on municipal tax rates now and for the future. Accelerated debt reduction through an increase in the open space tax levy will decrease the total open space debt expense to the benefit of taxpayers.

### **WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP**

1 Member of Township Committee - 3 years

Pursuant to provisions of the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act of 1984 (Public Law 98-435), a telecommunication device for the deaf (TDD) is maintained at the Election Division, Department of State, Trenton, New Jersey.

Persons wishing to utilize this service to obtain general voting information may do so by dialing 1-800-292-0039.

### **REGISTRATION OF VOTERS**

Registration of voters will be conducted at the office of the Hunterdon County Board of Elections, Hunterdon County Library Complex, Records Retention Building 5A, Flemington, or at the office of the Municipal Clerks each week day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

### **REGISTRATION BY MAIL**

Anyone who wishes to register by mail can do so by requesting mail Registration Application forms from the County Board of Elections, Flemington at 788-1190.

### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible to vote in Hunterdon County, a person must be a citizen of the United States, a resident of New Jersey and of Hunterdon County for 30 days and shall have attained the age of 18 years by the day of the General Election, November 4, 2008.

### **NOTICE TO FIRST TIME REGISTRANTS BY MAIL IN HUNTERDON COUNTY AFTER JANUARY 1, 2003**

If you have not provided proper identification for this federal election to the Board of Elections you will be required to do so at the polls. If you need assistance in completing this identification, call the Board of Elections at (908) 788-1190.

### **TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION**

A voter who is registered to vote in one district of Hunterdon County and who moves his residence to another part of Hunterdon County must transfer his registration to the new address. This can be accomplished by informing the County Board of Elections in writing. Such notice shall be signed by the voter.

### **ATTENTION VOTERS WHO HAVE MOVED**

If you were a registered voter in a municipality of this county, moved to another municipality of this county but did not submit a change of address to the County Commissioner of Registration, you are entitled to vote in the General Election. On Election Day you should go to your NEW polling place and request a provisional ballot.

If you already completed a voter registration form for your new address, you will receive a sample ballot in the mail. If you do not receive the sample ballot, follow the instructions above, or call the office of your County Commissioner of Registration before Election Day.

Any registered voter who has moved to another county any time prior to 21 days before the election (October 14, 2008) must have completed a new voter registration in order to vote.

THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER OR CHANGE AN ADDRESS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008.

**HUNTERDON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**