

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Chapter 24 of the Public Laws of 1997, authorizing the acquisition of lands for conservation of open space and provided for a special taxation in an amount or rate to be approved by the voters of the County, and established that all funds to be raised be deposited in a "County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland Preservation and Historic Trust Fund"; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders is desirous of creating the "Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland Preservation and Historic Trust Fund" to allow a specific source of funds for the County acquisition of lands for recreation, conservation, general open space, farmland preservation and historic preservation of County Historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas or objects, in view of the fact that open space, agricultural lands and historic structures are an important part of the heritage of Hunterdon County and are rapidly decreasing at an accelerated rate; and

WHEREAS, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders is also desirous of placing on the Ballot for the November 1999 General Election a Referendum which would allow the establishment of an annual tax assessment to fund the "Hunterdon County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland Preservation, and Historic Trust Fund" in an amount not to exceed Three (\$.03) Cents per One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars of total County equalized real property valuation, limited to a five year period commencing January 1, 2000 and terminating December 31, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the selection of lands for acquisition for recreation, conservation, general open space, farmland preservation and the selection of historic preservation projects will be in accordance with plans prepared and adopted by the County in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.2.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Hunterdon that the Hunterdon County Clerk be and is hereby requested to place the following question on the November 02, 1999 General Election Ballot:

COUNTY QUESTION

Shall the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders establish the "Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" to raise money for the purchase of lands for recreation, conservation, general open space, farmland preservation and historic preservation of County owned structures, properties, structures, 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 to be funded by an 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 limited to a five year period commencing January 1, 2000 and terminating December 31, 2004?

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

A yes vote will allow the County to institute an open space tax of an amount not to exceed Three (\$.03) Cents per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of total County equalized real property value to be set annually by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, that would enable the County to acquire lands through purchase or easement to preserve tracts of open space, farmland preservation, recreation, conservation and rehabilitate County owned historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas and other objects, which are rapidly being lost to development or decay. A yes vote would also allow the County to pay off debt incurred for the aforementioned purposes. This tax would be limited to a five year period commencing January 1, 2000 and terminating December 31, 2004, however, this tax shall not be imposed until a Countywide acquisition plan is developed and a public hearing is held. As an example of the effect of this tax, a property owner whose house is assessed at \$200,000.00 would pay an additional \$60.00 per year in taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders deliver a true copy of this resolution to the Hunterdon County Clerk for appropriate action to be taken by that official in accordance herewith.

ROLL CALL

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
<i>Paul C. Sauerland, Jr., Director</i>			X			
<i>Marcia A. Karrow, Deputy Director</i>			X			
<i>George B. Melick, Freeholder</i>			X			
<i>George D. Muller, Freeholder</i>		X	X			
<i>Frank J. Fuzo, Freeholder</i>	X		X			

Adopted August 10, 1999

Denise B. Doolan, Clerk