

**STILLWATER TOWNSHIP
SUSSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION 2025-037**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLERK TO SUBMIT THE
FOLLOWING NON BINDING REFERENDUM
TO THE VOTERS OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF STILLWATER AT THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 4, 2025**

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Township Committee recognizes the utmost importance of the acquisition, development and maintenance of land for recreation and conservation purposes and for preservation of farmland and historic properties; and

WHEREAS, this vital preservation of open space can best be achieved through the provision of a definite, long-term fixed source of funding; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7 authorizes the Township Committee to submit to the voters of the municipality a question in order to ascertain the sentiments of the voters by including a non-binding referendum on the November 4, 2025 General Election Ballot;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Stillwater as follows:

1. That the following non-binding referendum be forwarded to the Sussex County Clerk for inclusion on the November 4, 2025 General Election Ballot:

[] Yes

[] No

Shall the Township of Stillwater adopt an Ordinance establishing a “Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund” which will have the following provisions:

- A. The “Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund” shall be funded through the collection of a local property tax in an amount between \$.005 and \$.02 per One Hundred Dollars (\$100) of assessed value.
- B. Such funds shall be designated solely for (1) the acquisition, development and maintenance of land for recreation and conservation purposes, (2) the acquisition of farmland for preservation purposes, (3) the acquisition and preservation of historic properties, structures, sites, areas or objects, or (4) payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by the municipality for any of the foregoing purposes.

- C. Funds raised through the annual property tax levy will be subdivided by the Township Committee at a later date after a public hearing.
- D. Any property acquired by or through the “Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund” shall not be sold or conveyed by the Township until and unless authorized by a binding public Referendum.
- E. This Trust Fund tax shall be for a term not to exceed ten (10) years and may only be extended upon approval of a non-binding voter referendum.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT

This referendum will give the elected officials of the Township of Stillwater the sentiment of the voters concerning the re-establishment of a “Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund”. This Fund would be in addition to bonding and other available sources of public funds, and would be used solely for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining lands within the Township for open space, recreation and conservation, and for farmland and historic preservation. Having the funds would enable the Township to qualify for grants, matching funds and other sources of funds available through the State and other entities. The Fund will be raised through a dedicated tax on real property. The Township Committee will determine the rate of the special tax each year but the amount will be between \$.005 and \$.02 per \$100 of assessed value of the property. For example, at the minimum rate of \$.005 per \$100 of assessed value, the owner of property assessed at \$150,000 would contribute \$7.50 to the Open Space Trust Fund in a year. At a rate of \$.01 per \$100 of assessed value, the owner of property assessed at \$150,000 would contribute \$22.50 to the Open Space Trust Fund in a year. At a rate of \$.02 per \$100 of assessed value, the owner of property assessed at \$150,000 would contribute \$30 to the Open Space Trust Fund in a year. Any property or asset acquired by the Open Space Trust Fund could not be sold or disposed of unless authorized by Public Referendum.

- 2. The Sussex County Clerk is hereby requested to print the Referendum and Interpretive Statement on the Official Ballot for the General Election to be held on November 4, 2025.
- 3. A copy of this Resolution shall be placed on file with the Clerk of the Township.

I hereby certify this is a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Township Committee of the Stillwater Township on February 4, 2025

Valerie Ingles, RMC
Township Clerk