

SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE #_6_ OF 2005

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR
A REFERENDUM ON FUNDING
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION

An Ordinance by the Board of Supervisors of South Middleton Township providing for a question to be placed before the voters of South Middleton Township at the general election of November 8, 2005 asking whether the electors of South Middleton Township favor the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% by South Middleton Township to be used for some or all of the following: financing the acquisition of open space, acquiring forest and agricultural conservation easements, acquiring property development rights and acquiring recreation or historical lands. The ballot question is authorized by Act 153 of 1996.

SECTION I: INTENT

The ballot question asks the voters of South Middleton Township whether the Township should impose an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% on an annual basis to purchase land or interests in land for preservation and conservation of open, undeveloped land in South Middleton Township. The Township would use the money to do one or more of the following:

- 1. Acquire agricultural conservation easements.** The Township could purchase agricultural conservation easements or participate in State or County land preservation programs that acquire agricultural conservation easements. An agricultural conservation easement allows the landowner to retain his/her land and use it for farming and other agricultural purposes.
- 2. Finance the acquisition of open space.** The Township could purchase undeveloped land from landowners in the Township in order to protect sensitive natural areas such as woodlands, stream valleys or other unique natural resources or habitats.
- 3. Finance the acquisition of recreation or historic land.** The Township could purchase undeveloped land from landowners in the Township for the purpose of developing additional recreational facilities for residents or for historic preservation purposes.
- 4. Acquire Property Development Rights.** Under this option, a landowner would sell the development rights of a property to the Township. The landowner would retain the property, but the property could not be developed.

A vote of "YES" to the ballot question approves the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% upon Township residents for the foregoing purposes.

SECTION II: THE QUESTION

“Do you favor the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% by South Middleton Township to be used for some or all of the following: financing acquisition of open space, acquiring conservation easements and acquiring recreation or historic lands?”

YES or NO

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this _____ day of July, 2005.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP

ATTEST:

THOMAS E. FALEY, Chairman

SANDRA A. QUICKEL,
Secretary

BRYAN A. GEMBUSIA, Vice Chairman

PHYLLIS W. GIVLER

JAMES N. BAKER

RONALD L. REEDER.