

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP BALLOT QUESTION- MAY 17 2022

Do you favor the imposition of an increase in the earned income tax rate for Whitpain Township residents from its current rate of one (1 %) percent to a rate of one and six one-hundredths (1.06%) percent to be imposed by Whitpain Township, with the revenues generated from the additional six one-hundredths (0.06%) of one percent to be used: (1) to retire the indebtedness incurred in purchasing interests in real property and/or to make additional acquisitions of real property in Whitpain Township for the purpose of securing an open space benefit; (2) to pay transactional fees that are incidental to such acquisitions; (3) to pay expenses necessary to prepare the required resource, recreation, or land use plan for such property; and/or (4) to develop, improve, design, engineer, or maintain such property?

YES or NO

PLAIN ENGLISH STATEMENT

Pennsylvania law defines "open space benefits" as "benefits to the citizens of the Commonwealth . . . which result from the preservation ... of undeveloped open spaces or areas." The interest in this preservation includes, but is not limited to, the preservation of water resources, forests, and farmland, as well as the protection of scenic areas for public visual enjoyment from public rights of way.

To retire indebtedness means to pay off debts already incurred by the purchase of the land in question. Whitpain Township has already purchased land to preserve an open space benefit for the Township's citizens, and now the Township seeks to use the revenue from the proposed increase in earned income tax to pay off the purchase of the land.

Whitpain Township also seeks to leave open the possibility of acquiring new property for new open space benefits in the future, and therefore seeks authorization for this increase in earned income tax rate to pay for such potential purchases, as well as to pay any fees and expenses incidental to the purchase which has already occurred, and those which may occur in the future.

Whitpain Township also seeks authorization to use the revenue to develop, improve, design, engineer, or maintain such property for the continued benefit of the citizens of Whitpain Township, with the understanding that the Open Space Lands Act only allows up to 25% of such revenue to be used for developments, improvements, designs, engineering, or maintenance of the land, and such funds may only be used for these purposes after the annual debt service incurred by the purchase of the property has been satisfied in a given year.

The revenues from this earned income tax increase could be used only for the purposes provided for in the referendum question. A vote of "YES" in this referendum approves the increase in earned income tax by (0.06%) for a minimum of five years.