

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-**

**TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLETOWN  
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

**Resolution Authorizing Ballot Question To Increase The Annual Collection Rate  
For The Middletown Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, And  
Farmland And Historic Preservation Trust Fund**

**WHEREAS**, in 1998, the voters of the Township of Middletown (the “**Township**”) approved the creation and funding of the Middletown Open Space Trust Fund, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7 et seq., with a collection rate of one cent per \$100 of equalized valuation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, the voters of the Township supported an increase in the collection rate by one cent to two cents per \$100 of equalized valuation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, the voters of the Township supported an increase in the collection rate by one cent to three cents per \$100 of equalized valuation pursuant to a ballot question authorized by Resolution No. 20-173 adopted on July 20, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township desires to ask voters to consider an increase in the collection rate for the Middletown Open Space Trust Fund by one cent to four cents per \$100 of equalized valuation through a proposition question on this November’s General Election ballot; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is authorized to submit to voters a proposition to amend the rate of the annual levy for the Middletown Open Space Trust Fund, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7(d); and

**WHEREAS**, if approved by voters, the Township shall thereafter hold a public hearing in order to determine the allocation of the increased proceeds to the Middletown Open Space Trust Fund, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7(a) and (b); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7(c), a municipality’s Open Space Trust Fund shall be formally named the “Municipal Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.”

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Middletown in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Middletown Open Space Trust Fund established by the voters of Middletown in 1998 shall hereafter be referred to as the Middletown Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

2. The Township hereby requests that the County Clerk print upon the official General Election Ballot of the next General Election, to be held on November 5, 2024, the following proposition question:

Should Middletown increase the levy for the existing Middletown Open Space, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, from the currently approved and implemented annual levy of three cents per \$100 of equalized valuation to four cents per \$100 of equalized valuation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7(a), to fund additional acquisitions and improvements to open space and parkland properties.

3. The Township further requests to print on said General Election Ballot, the following explanatory statement of the proposition question presented:

In 1998, Middletown voters approved the establishment of a Township Open Space Trust Fund, with a dedicated tax levy of one cent per \$100 of equalized valuation. In 2002, voters approved an increase in the collection rate to two cents per \$100 in equalized valuation. In 2020, voters approved an increase in the collection to three cents per \$100 in equalized valuation. This referendum seeks voter approval for an increase in the dedicated tax levy by one cent to four cents per \$100 in equalized valuation. The increase will fund additional acquisitions and improvements to open space and parkland properties.

4. The Township Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified true copy of this resolution to the County Clerk.

5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.