

ORDINANCE NO. 2000 - 7

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HILLTOWN, BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA DETERMINING THE ADVISABILITY OF IMPOSING AN ADDITIONAL EARNED INCOME TAX AT THE RATE OF .25% WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP WITH THE ASSENT OF THE ELECTORS, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING THAT ASSENT, AND APPROVING THE CONTENT AND FORM OF NOTICE OF ELECTIONS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LAND PRESERVATION PURSUANT TO ACT 153 OF 1996, THE OPEN SPACE LANDS ACT

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Hilltown Township recognizes the significance of agriculture to the community and the historical significance of Hilltown Township's farming heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that open space and the preservation of natural resources can increase property values, and, consequently, tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that open space can provide Township residents with a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors recognizes that the preservation of unique land for open space and/or agricultural activities is in the Township's best interest and is necessary to preserve the quality of life for Hilltown Township residents; and

WHEREAS, Act 153 of 1996, the Open Space Lands Act (hereinafter the "Act"), specifically authorizes the Board of Supervisors to preserve and acquire unique lands for open space, historical, agricultural and recreational purposes; and the Board of Supervisors have adopted a plan of acquiring and maintaining open space within Hilltown Township.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained that the Hilltown Township Board of Supervisors hereby determines that it is advisable to impose an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% for the purpose of acquisition and/or preservation of open space, historical and agricultural lands as defined by the Act, and seeks the assent of the electors to undertake this action as set forth herein:

SECTION 1 - OBJECTIVE

To impose an Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% with elector assent for the purpose of acquiring or preserving open space and agricultural lands within the Township in accordance with Act 153 of 1996.

COUNTY OF BUCKS
BOARD OF
ELECTIONS

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SECTION 2 - CALLING FOR ELECTION

The Board of Supervisors has determined that approval of the electors of Hilltown Township shall be obtained in the general election of November 7, 2000, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, under the provisions of Act 153 of 1996, the Open Space Lands Act, Section 7.1. A certified copy of this Ordinance and the Election Question shall be forwarded to the Board of Elections for submission to the electors of Hilltown Township at the next general election occurring not less than the 13th Tuesday following the filing of the Ordinance at the County Board of Elections.

SECTION 3 - ELECTION QUESTION

A. The Board of Supervisors of Hilltown Township has determined that the question to be submitted to the voters at the election shall be substantially in the form as set forth in Section 7.1 of Act 153 of 1996 as follows:

“Do you favor the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% by Hilltown Township to be used for financing the acquisition of open space; for the purpose of acquiring agricultural, conservation easements; for the purpose of acquiring property development rights; and for the purpose of acquiring recreation or historical lands?”
YES or NO

B. Plain English Version: The ballot question asks the voters of Hilltown Township whether the Township should impose an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% on an annual basis to purchase land or interest in land for preservation and conservation of open, undeveloped land in Hilltown Township. The Township would use the money to do one (1) or more of the following:

- (1) Finance the acquisition of open space: The Township would purchase undeveloped land or farmland from land owners in the Township and would restrict the land from development.
- (2) Acquire agricultural or natural resource conservation easements: The Township would purchase agricultural or natural resource conservation easements or participate in federal, state or county land preservation programs which acquire agricultural or natural resource easements. A conservation easement prevents a land owner from developing his/her land but allows the land owner to retain his/her land for farming or conservation purposes.
- (3) Acquire property development rights: Under this option, a land owner would sell some or all of the development rights in a property to the Township, thereby reducing density for future development. The land owner would retain the property, but once the development rights are sold, the development of the property would be limited.

CLERK OF BUCKS COUNTY
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- (4) Acquire recreation or historical lands: The Township would purchase land or interests in land for recreational activities or historical preservation purposes.

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 4 - SEVERABILITY

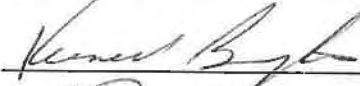
If any section, paragraph, sub-section, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than that portion specifically declared invalid.


SECTION 5 - EFFECTIVE DATE


This Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of the Second Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

ORDAINED, this 10th day of July, A.D., 2000.

HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS







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HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP REFERENDUM

“Do you favor the imposition of an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% by Hilltown Township to be used for financing the acquisition of open space; for the purpose of acquiring agricultural, conservation easements; for the purpose of acquiring property development rights; and for the purpose of acquiring recreation or historical lands?”

YES or NO

B. Plain English Version: The ballot question asks the voters of Hilltown Township whether the Township should impose an additional Earned Income Tax at the rate of .25% on an annual basis to purchase land or interest in land for preservation and conservation of open, undeveloped land in Hilltown Township. The Township would use the money to do one (1) or more of the following:

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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.