

Resolution of the Demarest Governing Body

Resolution No. 144-25

August 11, 2025

| Council Member | Motion | Second | Yes | No | Abstain | Absent |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| Slowikowski | | | ✓ | | | |
| Collins | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Fox | | | ✓ | | | |
| Jiang | | | ✓ | | | |
| Marks | | | ✓ | | | |
| Reiss | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PUBLIC QUESTION ON OPEN SPACE

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WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Demarest has previously provided for an open space fund; and

WHEREAS, said open space fund was established for a period of five (5) years and will expire on December 31, 2025 and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Demarest believe it is in the best interest of the residents of the Borough to continue an Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Trust Fund to preserve the character of the Borough; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Demarest hereby request that the Bergen County Clerk place the following question upon the ballot in the General Election of November 4, 2025:

Shall the Borough of Demarest continue the "Municipal Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund" which shall be principally funded by the continued imposition of an additional, annual tax levy of One Cent (\$0.01) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of total assessed valuation together with creation and adoption of the annual budget. The Mayor and Council has the authority to adjust the One Cent (\$0.01) tax downward or to suspend the tax levy on a year to year basis, in accordance with the enabling State Statute. The funds which are raised by the tax levy and deposited in this Trust Fund shall only be used for one of the following purposes: (a) Acquisition of lands for recreation and conservation purposes; (b) Development of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes; (c) Maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes; (d) Historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects, and the acquisition of such properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects for historic preservation purposes; (e) Protecting drinking water supplies and water quality in ponds and streams; or (f) Payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by a municipality for any of the purposes set forth in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) above. Any interest or other income earned on monies

deposited into the Trust Fund shall be credited to the Fund and shall be used for the same purposes as the principal.

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT Approval of this ballot question will authorize the Borough of Demarest to implement an ordinance which authorizes the Mayor and Council to continue an annual tax levy of not more than of One Cent (\$0.01) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of total assessed valuation, the proceeds from which shall be segregated from all other tax revenues and deposited into a separate trust fund(s) for the specifically limited purposes of acquiring land for recreation and conservation purposes (generally referred to as open space and public park areas); developing of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes; maintenance of lands acquired for recreation and conservation purposes; historic preservation of historic properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects, and the acquisition of such properties, structures, facilities, sites, areas, or objects for historic preservation purposes; protection of waterways, or payment of debt service on indebtedness issued or incurred by the Borough with respect to any expenditures for such purposes. As proposed, the ordinance would restrict use of the monies for only the preceding purposes and would not permit these funds to be used for salaries, wages, administrative expenses, office supplies, equipment and the like. An annual tax levy not in excess of One Cent (\$0.01) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of total assessed valuation would be imposed as an additional part of the annual budget process. As an example, at the one cent (\$0.01) rate, the owner of property assessed at \$900,000.00 would pay an additional \$90.00 in property taxes per year to fund the "Municipal Open Space, Recreation, and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund". The continuation of the Municipal Open Space, Recreation and Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust permits the Borough to seek grant funding from the County Open Space Fund.

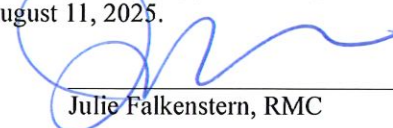
APPROVED:



Brian Bernstein, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Julie Falkenstern, Registered Municipal Clerk, of the Borough of Demarest, in the County of Bergen and the State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true copy of the original resolution duly passed and adopted by the Governing Body at the meeting on August 11, 2025.



Julie Falkenstern, RMC