

What's on your ballot?



2026 LIBRARY REFERENDUM: BETHEL TOWNSHIP



VOTE YES

QUESTION

Do you favor increasing the annual tax on the assessed value of all taxable real property situated in Bethel Township from .027 mills to .037 mills to aid in maintaining the Rachel Kohl Community Library?

For a typical homeowner, this is an increase of roughly **\$5 annually**.

This additional revenue would be a step toward the library qualifying for additional state funding (Quality Libraries Aid).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In 2006 voters in Bethel Township instituted an annual tax on the assessed value of all taxable real property situated in Bethel Township at the rate of .05 mills, which equates to \$5 per \$100,000 of assessed value, to support Rachel Kohl Community Library (the "Library Tax"). In 2021, when Delaware County reassessed the value of all taxable real estate, state law required the Township to reduce the Library Tax millage to .027 mills. At the current rate of .027 mills, the Library Tax costs \$2.70 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually. The purpose of the foregoing question is to determine whether the Township should increase the Library Tax to .037 mills. The proposed rate of .037 mills would cost \$3.70 per \$100,000 of assessed value, an increase of \$1.00 per \$100,000 per year. This would provide the Rachel Kohl Community Library (the "Library") with a total tax revenue from Bethel Township of just over \$5.00 per resident in Bethel Township, which is the level required throughout the Library's service area to qualify for Quality Libraries Aid, a form of additional funding from the Commonwealth.

What's on your ballot?



2026 OPEN SPACE REFERENDUM: DELAWARE COUNTY



VOTE YES

QUESTION

Shall debt in the maximum principal amount of up to \$120 million be authorized for the purposes of financing land conservation, including protecting drinking water sources, water quality in rivers and creeks, and wildlife habitat, conserving trees to protect air quality, conserving wetlands to prevent flooding, providing greenways and parks, and protecting natural areas from development, to be incurred by the County as debt approved by the voters, requiring full public disclosure and annual independent audits of all project spending?

The county says that the cost to the average household would be **less than \$24 per year, if the entire \$120 million were ultimately borrowed.**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Delaware County voters will decide whether to authorize the county to borrow up to \$120 million through bonds for open-space and environmental conservation. If approved, the funds could be used to purchase and preserve land, protect drinking-water sources, rivers, creeks, wetlands, trees and wildlife habitat, create or improve parks and greenways, and prevent natural areas from being developed. The proposal would authorize borrowing of up to \$120 million; it does not require the county to spend the entire amount. It also requires public disclosure and annual independent audits of project spending.