

Ballot Questions Tally

12-16-2005

For November 2005 General Election

PUBLIC QUESTION NO. 2**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO EXPAND USES OF DEDICATED TAX REVENUE TO FUND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PROGRAM**

Shall the amendment to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, expanding the authorized uses of the constitutionally dedicated Corporation Business Tax revenue: (1) to allow the use of 17% of the dedicated funds for 10 years, to pay for providing grants for the costs of air pollution control equipment to reduce particulate matter emissions from diesel-powered engines, funding for other measures to reduce human exposure to those emissions, and for no more than \$1,150,000 in associated State administrative costs, (2) to allow the use of no more than \$1,000,000 per year for State administrative expenses for the underground storage tank program, and (3) to allow an appropriation as the Legislature may provide up to \$10,000,000 from the preceding unexpended balances dedicated and appropriated for the underground storage tank program to provide grants for cost of air pollution control equipment to reduce particulate matter emissions from diesel-powered engines, and funding for other measures to reduce human exposure to those emissions, be approved?

Interpretive Statement

Since 1996, 4% of the annual revenue from the Corporation Business Tax has been constitutionally dedicated to fund environmental programs. Approval of this constitutional amendment would (1) expand the authorized uses of those revenues to provide grants for the costs of air pollution control equipment to reduce particulate matter emissions from diesel-powered engines, and funding for other measures to reduce human exposure to those emissions, and (2) change the allocation of funds for the existing authorized uses. The Constitution currently allocates one-half for hazardous discharge cleanup performed by the State, a minimum of one-sixth or a minimum of \$5,000,000 for water quality projects, and a minimum of one-third for funding loans or grants for underground storage tank upgrades, replacements, closures and remediations, loans or grants to remediate hazardous substance discharges, and for an underground inspection program. This constitutional amendment would reduce the allocation for hazardous discharge cleanup by the State to 33% for ten years, allocate 17% for that period for grants for air pollution control programs, and would allow up to \$1,150,000 per year of that 17% allocation to be used for the State's associated administrative costs. Also, this amendment would allow the use of no more than \$1,000,000 per year for State administrative expenses for the underground storage tank program, and would allow an appropriation by the Legislature of up to \$10,000,000 from the preceding unexpended balances dedicated and appropriated for the underground storage tank program to provide grants for cost of air pollution control equipment to reduce particulate matter emissions from diesel-powered engines, and funding for other measures to reduce human exposure to those emissions.

County	Yes Count	No Count
Atlantic	26,343	21,010
Bergen	95,827	65,839
Burlington	51,405	42,117
Camden	47,736	32,643
Cape May	13,823	11,540
Cumberland	8,757	8,764
Essex	38,061	20,546
Gloucester	31,131	26,276
Hudson	23,863	12,488
Hunterdon	15,842	15,656
Mercer	46,821	30,797
Middlesex	69,221	49,978
Monmouth	70,755	58,102
Morris	64,178	52,237
Ocean	67,376	60,265
Passaic	27,919	23,272
Salem	10,050	9,957
Somerset	37,790	30,589

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Sussex	20,696	20,647
Union	33,986	25,519
Warren	13,026	16,027
Total	814,606	634,269