

Smithfield Clean Water Alliance

urges you to



Vote **✓ YES** for the
Smithfield Township



Water Quality, Forest and Wildlife Habitat Fund

At the top of the ballot on November 8, 2016

At the November election, Smithfield Township voters will have the opportunity to support the Smithfield Township Water Quality, Forest and Wildlife Habitat Fund. Look at the top of the ballot in the voting booth to vote yes. If passed, the fund will raise up to \$2 million to:

- ✓ Protect drinking water supplies
- ✓ Protect water quality in lakes, rivers and streams
- ✓ Protect forests and wildlife habitat
- ✓ Protect wetlands that provide flood protection

All for less than less than \$2.50 a month for the average homeowner

The Fund would be used to acquire and improve land, development rights and/or conservation easements to protect drinking water supplies and water quality in lakes and streams; conserve forests, wetlands and wildlife habitat.

All land preservation projects would be in cooperation with willing sellers |
There would be an annual public audit of how the funds are spent

Why vote YES for the Smithfield Township Water Quality, Forest and Wildlife Habitat Fund?

To keep the water clean

To keep the forests green

For you and future generations

This message was authorized by the

**Smithfield
Clean Water Alliance**

Chairman: Brian Barrett

Treasurer: Mary Ellen Higgins

Look for us on Facebook at

"Vote Yes on Smithfield Water Quality"

Vote V Yes for the Smithfield Township Water Quality, Forest and Wildlife Habitat Fund

Q: *What is this about?*

A: In the November 8th election, Smithfield Township residents will have the chance to vote on whether the township should float a bond to raise funds to purchase land and development rights or conservation easements to protect drinking water supplies; water quality in lakes and streams; wetlands that provide flood protection; forests and wildlife habitat within the township.

Q: *Why would the township do this?*

A: Acquiring land along streams, lakes and rivers, as well as protecting forested land and wetlands are effective, inexpensive ways to protect drinking water supplies and water quality, provide flood protection and conserve wildlife habitat. It's easier to protect Smithfield Township's waterways and forests while they're still clean and green.

Once protected, they'll remain clean and green for future generations.

Q: *What will this cost?*

A: A vote of "YES" on the ballot question approves the borrowing of up \$2 million dollars payable over a twenty-year period. This borrowing will cost the average Smithfield Township household approximately \$2.48 per month.

Q: *I understand outright land purchase, but what does it mean to acquire development rights and/or conservation easements?*

A: The township can purchase a conservation easement which lets ownership remain with the property owner, but the development rights on the property are extinguished forever. There will be no further development of the property.

Q: *What lands will be protected?*

A: Lands throughout the township will be protected, including wildlife habitat, streams, lakes, wetlands and forests. Once the ballot measure is approved, the Township will develop a citizens' committee to evaluate and identify properties for consideration.

Q: *Will lands be condemned?*

A. No. Lands will be acquired only from willing sellers; there will be no use of condemnation or eminent domain.

Look to the top of the ballot to vote yes for the Smithfield Township Water Quality, Forest and Wildlife Habitat Fund question, which says: *Shall debt in the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for the purpose of financing the acquisition of land, development rights and/or conservation easements in the township for the protection of drinking water supplies; water quality in lakes and streams; wetlands that provide flood protection; forests and wildlife habitat be authorized to be incurred as debt approved by the electors?*