

Voters Invest in Open Space

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LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

VOTERS INVEST IN OPEN SPACE: 2000 REFERENDA RESULTS

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A statewide park and open space bond initiative enabled The Big Sur Land Trust to purchase a conservation easement to protect 3,550 acres of El Sur Ranch, visible from California's scenic Highway 1.

The Land Trust Alliance (LTA) is the umbrella organization for local and regional land trusts—nonprofit organizations that work with private landowners to protect open space, primarily by purchasing or accepting donations of land or conservation easements. LTA provides information, training and resources that help land trusts conserve land.

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Our thanks to the Trust for Public Land and its Public Finance Program for their help in making this publication possible.

Cover photo collage by Coblyn Design. (Photos by T. L. Gettings, Rebecca Orris, Andrew Zepp and Little Traverse Conservancy.)



CALIFORNIA VOTERS COMMIT BILLIONS TO PARKS, CLEAN WATER

by Gray Davis, Governor of California

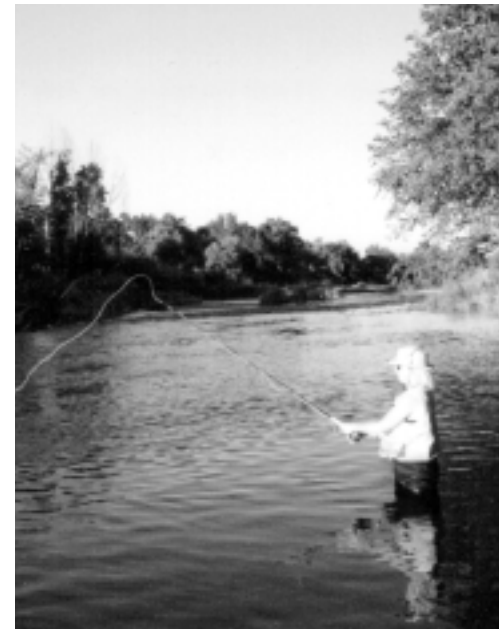
California is home to America's most recognizable landscapes—the Big Sur Coast, the Sierra Nevada, the redwood forests and the Mojave Desert. From lush forests and coastal bluffs to dry deserts and fertile valleys, California's precious natural resources highlight the grandeur and glory of the golden State.

As Governor, I have often spoken of our duty to build on the awesome achievements of those who came before us. This includes preserving our extraordinary biological diversity and unique natural heritage. Last year, the Legislature and I placed Propositions 12 and 13 on the ballot. Proposition 12, the largest state parks bond in U.S. history, protects our environment and provides safe places for our kids to play, while Proposition 13 fights groundwater contamination, repairs corroded water pipes and sewer systems, eliminates pollution sources and protects the watersheds that provide our drinking water.

With the help of the Big Sur Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Save the Redwoods League, the Trust for Public Land and the overwhelming support of the California people, those measures passed and we are now making record investments in our environment. I am proud to report that these two measures are providing \$4 billion for safe neighborhood parks, clean water, clean air, coastal restoration, flood protection and watershed contamination prevention. We have stopped the 1990s trend of spending more on parking lots than on parks. By approving these measures, California voters ensured that our natural heritage is being preserved today so that our children and our children's children can enjoy it tomorrow.

All this was possible because California's agricultural, environmental and business communities were able to work together to preserve our natural resources. In California, we overcame partisan politics to do what is best for our state. As you read "Voters Invest in Open Space," you will learn of other successful efforts across America to increase funding for land conservation projects in 2000. Hopefully, these success stories will encourage others to build strong bipartisan coalitions to continue this work.

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Once slated for development, the 358-acre Ball Ranch property was recently purchased for California's San Joaquin River Parkway. Funding was made possible in part by a statewide Safe, Clean, Reliable Water Supply Act referendum.

VOTER SUPPORT FOR OPEN SPACE IS LOUD AND CLEAR

by Russell Shay

Director of Public Policy, Land Trust Alliance

In a year likely to be remembered for a presidential election that was almost too close to call, voters overwhelmingly agreed on at least one issue: the importance of protecting open space. In state and local elections across the nation in 2000, they committed \$7.5 billion¹ of their tax dollars to protect the landscapes around them.

There were a record-setting 209 such measures on the ballot, as shown on the chart on pages 4-8. Voters approved 174 of them (83%), demonstrating the continued growth of public support for open space protection.

When the Land Trust Alliance began systematically gathering information on local elections to fund open space protection in 1998, we were amazed by how much we found. In that year, there were 148 such measures on the ballot. Of those, 124 (84%) were approved, committing more than \$8.28 billion. As 1999 was an “off-year,” without gubernatorial or Congressional elections to bring people to the polls, we expected far fewer jurisdictions would put funding measures on the ballot. But there were still 102 measures. Of those, 92 (90%) passed, generating more than \$1.8 billion.

Cumulatively over the three years, voters designated more than \$17.5 billion for open space protection, approving 85% of 459 state, county and local measures.

These figures include only referenda committing public funding to protect open space.² They include funding for purchases of development rights that help farmers and ranchers keep their lands in agricultural use in the face of escalating development pressure. They include measures to protect forests and natural areas on urban fringes and in rural areas, and also to create new parks and playgrounds in suburbs and cities.



Gazzam Lake, on Bainbridge Island, WA, was purchased by the Bainbridge Park and Recreation District through a \$2.57 million bond issue approved by voters. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust campaigned for the bond measure.

Our lists do not include measures that only fund park operations, construct recreational facilities, or impose regulatory limits on development. Nor do they include the many new commitments state and local governments made to open space protection without direct voter approval. In December 1999, Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania signed a statute including \$27.4 million for matching grants—including grants to land trusts—to protect open space. As we go to press, Gov. Parris Glendening of Maryland has asked his state’s legislature to approve a five-year, \$145 million “Green Print” program for open space protection.

These sorts of programs are obviously very important to the protection of open space. But we have paid special attention to referenda because they offer a clear and direct view of the voting public's attitude toward protecting open space. These ballots ask a simple question—should we invest your tax dollars in open space protection, or not?

Each of these referenda is a local story, with its own setting, characters and plot. This publication includes the story of two such elections: one in Gallatin County, Montana, the other in Beaufort County, South Carolina. What do these stories have in common? Each chronicles local action to preserve beloved community landscapes that residents have come to realize they cannot take for granted.

The trend toward larger lots and houses; the stark contrast in the profitability of real estate development versus agricultural land uses; lagging revitalization of urban centers and older suburbs; and local planning and zoning that hasn't kept up with such changes have all contributed to the consumption of open space at unprecedented rates. The good news is that state and local governments are asking voters to protect the places most important to their communities, their quality of life and their children's futures—and voters are answering "yes."

Polk County Environmental Services Department

¹ These referenda generate funding for open space in a variety of ways. We have attempted to be consistent and conservative in our accounting of the total funds committed, using the following rules:

- **Bond issues:** Where the referendum authorizes a bond issue, we count the face value of the bonds, rather than the much higher cost of repaying the bonds. Where bonds are being used to finance both land protection efforts and other measures (park operation and maintenance or construction, for example), we try to separate out the amount of the bond that is planned or committed for land protection, and use only that figure. Sometimes, as with California's Proposition 13, we were unable to make such a judgment, in which case we include the entire bond amount.
- **Sales, property and excise taxes:** Where a referendum authorizes a new tax, we count the estimated revenue generated in the first year times the authorized duration of the tax. In cases where the tax is not limited to a specified term, we use a duration of 20 years to generate the figure. Where a referendum increases an existing open space tax, we count only the value of the added increment. In New Jersey, many tax assessors were not able to estimate by our deadline how much their referenda would raise. We included no value for these referenda in our figures, but we can assume that these measures will, in fact, raise significant amounts of money.
- **Mixed tax and bond measures:** Sometimes a referendum authorizes a tax and authorizes bonding to be paid for with the tax. If the tax rate is set and the face value of bonding is left flexible, we treat such measures as tax measures.
- **Appropriations:** There are occasionally measures simply authorizing the purchase of a particular piece of property, or authorizing a particular expenditure. We count such measures at their face value.
- **Advisory measures:** There are a number of non-binding measures on the ballot. These are usually put on the ballot by the jurisdiction's legislative body (a county board of supervisors or city council) with the explicit understanding that they will follow the course approved by the voters. As such, we treat these in the same way as binding tax and bond referenda.
- **Town meetings:** In New England, special elections are often held at town meetings. Any registered voter is eligible to come to the meeting and vote. We count these as referenda, too.



In 2000, Polk County, FL, recently acquired 913 acres of land containing rare plants and animals and a wide range of wildlife habitat including white sand scrub, oak barrens and hardwood wetlands. Green Horizon Land Trust facilitated the acquisition by purchasing an option on the land and transferring it to the county.

² For analysis of a broader swath of growth-related referenda and initiatives, see *Growth at the Ballot Box: Electing the Shape of Communities*, by Phyllis Myers and Rob Puentes, Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Studies, (<http://www.brook.edu/es/urban/urban.htm>), expected to be available in March 2001.

2000 OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION BALLOT INITIATIVES

209 Referenda in 30 states; 174 winning referenda (83%); 35 losing referenda (17%); total funds \$7,494,482,634

State	Jurisdiction	Date	For	Against	Description	Tax Rate	Duration	Total Funds
AZ	Prescott	5/16	51%	49%	Dedicate portion of sales tax for open space acquisition	1 cent		\$40,700,000
CA	Statewide	3/7	63%	37%	Bond issue for land acquisition, parks, clean water, clean air and coastal protection (Proposition 12)			\$2,100,000,000
CA	Statewide	3/7	65%	35%	Bond issue for safe drinking water, cleaner water, watershed and flood protection (Proposition 13)			\$1,970,000,000
CA	Davis	11/7	70%	30%	Property tax increase for acquisition, improvement and maintenance of open space resources	\$24 per house	20 yrs.	\$17,500,000
CA	Monrovia	7/11	78%	22%	Special parcel tax for purchase and preservation of urban open space		30 yrs.	\$10,000,000
CA	Napa Co.	11/7	64%	36%	Portion of hotel tax increase for acquisition and enhancement of open space and parks*	1.5%		
CA	Placer Co.	11/7	24%	76%	\$200 million sales tax increase for acquisition of open space and conservation easements	1/4 cent	20 yrs.	
CA	San Francisco	3/7	74%	26%	Property tax increase to acquire and maintain green space, gardens, and recreation	0.25 mill	30 yrs.	\$150,000,000
CO	Arvada	11/7	41%	59%	\$16.5 million bond issue for open space acquisition, development and maintenance of open space			
CO	Aspen	11/7	63%	37%	Portion of sales tax increase for open space acquisition and improvement, and for recreation	1/2 cent	25 yrs.	\$57,000,000
CO	Aurora PD	11/7	51%	49%	Portion of bond issue for land acquisition and park improvements			\$16,100,000
CO	Boulder Co.	11/7	52%	48%	Portion of bond issue for open space acquisition and improvement			\$80,800,000
CO	Evergreen P&RD	11/7	72%	28%	Bond issue to create parks			\$3,500,000
CO	Foothills P&RD	11/7	59%	41%	Portion of bond issue for open space, park acquisition and recreation			\$22,000,000
CO	Golden	11/7	62%	38%	Portion of bond issue for open space acquisition, parks and recreation			\$26,420,000
CO	Grand Co.	11/7	29%	71%	\$5.3 million property tax increase for implementing open space plan and PDR program	2 mill	7 yrs.	
CO	Littleton	11/7	59%	41%	Authorization to spend 1999 revenues for open space acquisition, parks and trails			\$2,705,754
CO	Longmont	11/7	51%	49%	Sales and use tax increase to acquire, maintain and improve open space	1/5 cent	20 yrs.	\$60,000,000
CO	Perry Park MD	11/7	76%	24%	Bond issue for open space acquisition			\$200,000
CO	Roaring Fork Valley OSD	11/7	47%	53%	Property tax increase for OSD funding and debt repayment	2.5 mill		
CO	Roaring Fork Valley OSD	11/7	55%	45%	Bond issue for purchase of open space and agricultural land and conservation easements			\$10,000,000
CO	Roaring Fork Valley OSD	11/7	60%	40%	Authorize use of tax revenue for OSD			
CO	So. Suburban PD	5/2	59%	41%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and recreation	1 mill		\$17,000,000
CO	So. Suburban PD	11/7	59%	41%	Portion of bond issue for park land acquisition and recreation			\$10,000,000
CO	Teller Co.	11/7	42%	58%	\$2 million property tax increase for PDR for open space and agricultural lands	0.722 mill	10 yrs.	
CO	Thornton	11/7	67%	33%	Bond issue for open space and conservation easement acquisition, parks and recreation			\$22,420,000
CO	Weld Co.	11/7	34%	66%	\$35 million sales tax increase for open space and agricultural land preservation and for watershed protection	1/4 cent	10 yrs.	
CT	Killingworth	6/19	79%	21%	Bond issue for land acquisition and recreation			\$740,000
CT	Manchester	11/7	60%	40%	Portion of bond issue for open space acquisition			\$300,000
CT	Tolland	10/3	65%	35%	Authorized bond issue for open space acquisition, conservation easements and PDR for passive recreation			\$2,000,000
CT	Wilton Twp.	5/2	84%	16%	Bond issue for acquiring specific conservation easements and open space			\$4,100,000
CT	Woodbridge	2/8	100%		Town meeting to approve bond issue for purchase of specific property			\$4,400,000
FL	Alachua Co.	11/7	61%	39%	Bond issue for open space acquisition and watershed protection			\$29,000,000
FL	Boca Raton	3/14	62%	38%	Bond issue for acquisition and recreation			\$30,000,000
FL	Broward Co.	11/7	72%	28%	Bond issue for acquisition and park improvements			\$400,000,000
FL	Ft. Lauderdale	3/14	56%	44%	Bond issue for acquisition and improvement of specific parcel			\$8,000,000
FL	Jacksonville / Duval Co.	9/5	57%	43%	Portion of sales tax increase for land acquisition and recreation	1/2 cent	10 yrs.	\$50,000,000
FL	Leon Co.	11/7	60%	40%	Portion of sales tax increase for open space acquisition, stormwater improvements, and recreation	1 cent	15 yrs.	\$200,000,000
FL	Seminole Co.	11/7	58%	42%	Portion of bond issue for open space preservation and trails			\$25,000,000
FL	Volusia Co.	11/7	58%	42%	Volusia ECHO bond issue for acquisition and restoration of environmental, cultural, historic and recreation projects			\$40,000,000
FL	Volusia Co.	11/7	62%	38%	Volusia Forever bond issue for acquisition and improvement of environmentally sensitive, water resource protection and recreation lands			\$40,000,000

State	Jurisdiction	Date	For	Against	Description	Tax Rate	Duration	Total Funds
FL	West Palm Beach	3/14	55%	45%	Bond issue for park acquisition and maintenance			\$20,000,000
GA	Atlanta	11/7	75%	25%	Dedicate portion of bond issue increase to purchase green space and public plazas			\$26,950,000
GA	Cobb Co.	11/7	47%	53%	Portion of sales tax increase to raise \$45 million for open space acquisition and parks	1 cent	15 mo.	
GA	Douglas Co.	11/7	48%	52%	Portion of sales tax increase to raise \$38 million for park acquisition, maintenance and recreation	1 cent	5 yrs.	
GA	Gwinnett Co.	11/7	55%	45%	Continue existing sales and use tax and dedicate portion to open space and park land acquisition, and recreation	1 cent	2 yrs.	\$320,625,000
GA	Roswell	3/7	83%	17%	Portion of bond issue for park land acquisition and recreation			\$30,370,000
IL	Barrington PD	3/21	61%	39%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and recreation	1 mill		\$8,000,000
IL	Bensenville PD	3/21	44%	56%	Property tax increase to restore specific parcel and pay bond and interest levy	1.5 mill		
IL	Bensenville PD	11/7	39%	61%	Property tax increase to restore specific parcel and pay bond and interest levy	1.5 mill		
IL	Carol Stream PD	11/7	67%	33%	Portion of bond issue for open space acquisition and recreation			\$12,000,000
IL	Clinton Co.	11/7	44%	56%	\$4.02 million of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and to fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	
IL	Frankfort PD	3/21	42%	58%	Property tax increase to operate, maintain and acquire park lands	0.4 mill		
IL	Geneva PD	3/21	76%	24%	Bond issue to purchase and maintain open space			\$7,900,000
IL	Grandwood PD	3/21	54%	46%	Corporate property tax increase for open space preservation and improvements	1.5 mill		
IL	Lake Co. FPD	11/7	67%	33%	Bond issue for forest land acquisition and trail maintenance			\$85,000,000
IL	Lake in the Hills	11/7	58%	42%	Advisory referendum for park land acquisition			
IL	Madison	11/7	52%	48%	Half of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	\$28,000,000
IL	Monroe	11/7	47%	53%	\$2.16 million of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	
IL	Orland Park	11/7	57%	43%	Bond issue for open space acquisition and maintenance			\$20,000,000
IL	Plainfield Twp.	11/7	71%	29%	Bond issue for park land acquisition and recreation			\$5,925,000
IL	Roselle PD	11/7	48%	52%	Property tax increase for open space preservation	1.8 mill		
IL	St. Clair Co.	11/7	62%	38%	Half of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	\$32,000,000
MA	Dover	11/7	76%	24%	Bond issue to purchase and maintain specific parcel			\$3,500,000
MA	Sharon	11/13	68%	32%	Town meeting to authorize purchase of open space and future bond issue			\$12,715,000
MD	Baltimore Co.	11/7	73%	27%	Dedicate property tax increase to purchase farmland and for open space preservation		2 yrs.	\$2,000,000
MD	Baltimore Co.	11/7	77%	23%	Bond issue for parks, open space preservation and greenways projects			\$10,029,000
ME	Freeport	6/13	54%	46%	Bond issue to fund town land bank for acquisition of open space, wildlife habitat and farmland preservation			\$500,000
ME	Harpwell	3/11	100%		Town meeting appropriation to purchase a specific parcel			\$59,800
ME	Kennebunk	11/8	100%		Town meeting appropriation to purchase a specific parcel			\$25,000
ME	Phippsburg	5/15	79%	21%	Town meeting appropriation for open space acquisition			\$753,000
ME	Scarborough	5/8	100%		Town meeting appropriation for open space acquisition			\$250,000
ME	Scarborough	11/7	75%	25%	Bond issue for open space acquisition and preservation			\$1,500,000
MI	Meridian Twp.	11/7	56%	44%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, PDR, habitat preservation and recreation	0.75 mill	10 yrs.	\$8,750,000
MI	Washtenaw Co.	11/7	64%	36%	Property tax increase for acquisition of environmentally valuable areas and wildlife habitat, water quality preservation and recreation	0.25 mill	10 yrs.	\$25,000,000
MN	Blaine	11/7	54%	46%	Bond issue for open space acquisition, air and water quality, and trails			\$3,500,000
MN	Washington Co.	11/7	48%	52%	\$13.25 million bond issue for acquisition and management of conservation easements			
MO	Columbia	11/7	54%	46%	Sales tax for acquisition and maintenance of park land	1/4 cent declining to 1/8 cent	5 yrs.	\$17,000,000
MO	St. Charles Co.	11/7	57%	43%	Half of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	\$58,406,660
MO	St. Louis (City)	11/7	77%	23%	Half of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	\$71,154,920
MO	St. Louis Co.	11/7	70%	30%	Half of new retailers' occupation tax to establish regional park district and fund water quality improvement, open space preservation and recreation	1/10 cent	20 yrs.	\$279,469,660
MT	Gallatin Co.	11/7	59%	41%	Bond issue for the purchase of land and conservation easements			\$10,000,000

State	Jurisdiction	Date	For	Against	Description	Tax Rate	Duration	Total Funds
NC	Garner	11/7	69%	31%	Bond issue for the acquisition and improvement of park land			\$3,500,000
NC	Greensboro	11/7	69%	31%	Portion of bond issue for open space and park acquisition and recreation			\$34,200,000
NC	Guilford Co.	5/2	62%	38%	Bond issue for parks acquisition and development, and recreation			\$10,000,000
NC	New Hanover Co.	5/2	40%	60%	\$34 million bond issue for open space acquisition and recreation			
NC	Raleigh	11/7	78%	22%	Bond issue for park acquisition and recreation			\$16,000,000
NC	Wake Co.	11/7	78%	22%	Bond issue for open space acquisition, conservation and water quality protection			\$15,000,000
NJ	Bernards Twp.	11/7	56%	44%	Property tax increase for open space preservation	up to 0.2 mill		
NJ	Blairstown Twp.	11/7	73%	27%	Property tax increase to establish open space and farmland preservation trust fund	up to 0.2 mill		
NJ	Bloomingtondale Bor.	11/7	53%	47%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and preservation	0.25 mill		\$2,600,000
NJ	Boonton Twp.	11/7	64%	36%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	up to 0.2 mill		
NJ	Branchburg Twp.	11/7	58%	42%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	up to 0.3 mill		
NJ	Brick Twp.	11/7	76%	24%	Property tax increase for purchase of conservation easements for recreation and water quality protection	0.1 mill		
NJ	Carteret Bor.	11/7	50%	50%	Property tax increase for open space preservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Cherry Hill	11/7	80%	20%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation and recreation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Clementon Bor.	11/7	65%	35%	Property tax increase to create trust fund for open space preservation, parks and recreation	0.2 mill		
NJ	Dover Twp.	11/7	71%	29%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	up to 0.15 mill		\$16,800,000
NJ	Edgewater Park Twp.	11/7	76%	24%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Evesham Twp.	11/7	51%	49%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.2 mill		
NJ	Franklin	11/7	69%	31%	Property tax increase for open space, recreation, farmland, and historic preservation trust fund	0.2 mill		
NJ	Franklin Twp.	11/7	69%	31%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.2 mill		
NJ	Fredon Twp.	11/7	73%	27%	Property tax increase for acquisition of open space and farmland preservation	up to 0.2 mill		
NJ	Freehold Twp.	11/7	55%	45%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.2 mill		
NJ	Gloucester Co.	11/7	67%	33%	Property tax increase for farmland and open space preservation	0.1 mill		\$20,000,000
NJ	Greenwich Twp.	11/7	82%	18%	Property tax increase for the acquisition of open space and farmland preservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Hamburg Bor.	11/7	73%	27%	Property tax increase to maintain and preserve open space	0.2 mill		\$25,200,000
NJ	Harding Twp.	11/7	63%	37%	Authorizes township committee to add funds to current open space trust fund	up to 0.3 mill		
NJ	Harmony Twp.	11/7	51%	49%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and preservation	0.8 mill		
NJ	Harmony Twp.	11/7	66%	34%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and preservation	0.2 mill		
NJ	Holmdel Twp.	11/7	55%	45%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.15 mill		\$4,800,000
NJ	Hopewell Bor.	11/7	76%	24%	Property tax increase to acquire and preserve open space, farmland, and historic properties	0.1 mill		
NJ	Lebanon Bor.	11/7	70%	30%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and farmland preservation	up to 0.2 mill		
NJ	Lincoln Park Bor.	11/7	50%	50%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and preservation (passed by three votes)	up to 0.2 mill		
NJ	Lopatcong Twp.	11/7	64%	26%	Dedicate property tax increase to open space fund ('no' vote would have done away with existing 0.1 mill levy)	0.2 mill		
NJ	Lumberton Twp.	11/7	70%	30%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and farmland preservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Mansfield Twp.	11/7	76%	24%	Bond issue for open space and farmland preservation			\$1,000,000
NJ	Mantua Twp.	11/7	70%	30%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition	0.1 mill		
NJ	Medford Twp.	11/7	62%	38%	Property tax increase for open space and farmland preservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Mine Hill Twp.	11/7	74%	36%	Non-binding referendum to levy a property tax for open space acquisition	up to 0.05 mill		
NJ	Morris Twp.	11/7	61%	39%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and preservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Mt. Olive Twp.	11/7	61%	39%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition and farmland preservation	0.17 mill		\$10,000,000
NJ	New Milford Bor.	11/7	74%	26%	Property tax increase for open space, farmland and historic preservation; and parks and recreation development	up to 0.05 mill		
NJ	Ocean Twp.	11/7	62%	38%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.1 mill	12 yrs.	\$4,000,000

State	Jurisdiction	Date	For	Against	Description	Tax Rate	Duration	Total Funds
NJ	Old Bridge Twp.	11/7	61%	39%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.2 mill		\$6,000,000
NJ	Princeton Bor.	11/7	72%	28%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation, and recreation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Princeton Twp.	11/7	71%	29%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition, farmland and historic preservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Sayreville Bor.	11/7	65%	35%	Property tax to create trust fund for open space acquisition, farmland preservation and recreation	up to 0.2 mill	30 yrs.	
NJ	Sussex Co.	11/7	73%	27%	Property tax increase for agricultural land protection, open space acquisition, and recreation	0.2 mill		\$32,000,000
NJ	Union Co.	11/7	59%	41%	Property tax to create trust fund for open space protection, acquisition and recreation	0.15 mill		\$98,000,000
NJ	Upper Freehold	11/7	58%	42%	Property tax increase to create trust fund for open space acquisition, farmland preservation, and recreation	up to 0.3 mill		
NJ	Vernon Twp.	11/7	66%	34%	Property tax increase for open space and farmland preservation	0.2 mill	5 yrs.	
NJ	Vineland	11/7	44%	66%	\$3.3 million property tax increase for acquisition, development, and maintenance of open space for recreation and conservation	0.1 mill		
NJ	Waretown	11/7	62%	38%	Property tax increase for open space preservation	0.12 mill	12 yrs.	\$5,280,000
NJ	Washington Twp.	11/7	59%	41%	Property tax increase to create trust fund for open space acquisition, farmland preservation and recreation	0.4 mill		
NJ	West Milford Twp.	11/7	54%	46%	Property tax increase to establish open space trust fund for open space acquisition and recreation	0.2 mill		\$5,600,000
NJ	Woodcliff Lake Bor.	11/7	56%	44%	Property tax increase for acquisition of open space and parks, and for recreation	up to 0.2 mill TBD		
NM	Bernalillio Co.	11/7	66%	34%	Extend and increase existing property tax for open space acquisition and watershed and historic preservation	.25 mill	6 yrs.	\$25,000,000
NM	Bernalillio Co.	11/7	70%	30%	Bond issue for open space acquisition and recreation			\$1,576,000
NM	Sante Fe Co.	11/7	70%	30%	Bond issue for acquisition of open space and conservation easements			\$8,000,000
NV	Douglas Co.	11/7	44%	56%	Sales tax increase would have raised \$34.8 million for PDR	.25 cent	29 yrs.	
NV	Washoe Co.	11/7	54%	46%	Portion of bond issue for open space, parks and recreation			\$28,000,000
NY	Bedford	11/7	70%	30%	Special tax to fund for open space acquisition, PDR, parks and recreation, and watershed protection	3%	5 yrs.	
NY	Clarkstown	11/7	55%	45%	Bond issue for the acquisition and protection of open space and environmentally sensitive areas			\$22,000,000
NY	Irvington	11/7	83%	17%	Bond issue for open space acquisition and PDR			\$3,000,000
NY	Lewisboro	11/7	79%	21%	Bond issue for open space preservation			\$2,000,000
NY	North Hempstead	11/7	66%	34%	Bond issue for open space acquisition and for restoration and improvement of environmentally sensitive areas			\$15,000,000
NY	North Salem	11/7	71%	29%	Bond issue for acquisition of open space and conservation easements			\$2,000,000
NY	Oyster Bay	11/7	68%	32%	Bond issue for acquisition and improvement of open space and for recreation			\$30,000,000
NY	Pound Ridge	11/7	53%	47%	Dedicate property tax increase for open space protection	0.1 mill	10 yrs.	\$3,150,000
NY	Somers	11/7	60%	40%	Bond issue for open space preservation			\$2,000,000
NY	Warwick	11/7	52%	48%	Bond issue for land acquisition and PDR			\$9,500,000
NY	Yorktown	11/7	65%	35%	Property tax increase to create open space and conservation district	\$30/lot		\$8,000,000
OH	Statewide	11/7	56%	44%	Constitutional amendment to authorize the state to issue bonds for a range of conservation and environmental revitalization projects**			\$400,000,000
OH	Allen Twp.	11/7	34%	66%	Dedicate property tax increase for park land acquisition	1.5 mill	5 yrs.	
OH	Anderson Twp. PD	11/7	58%	42%	Property tax increase for acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of park lands	1.9 mill	10 yrs.	\$18,300,000
OH	Erie Co. PD	11/7	48%	52%	\$12 million property tax increase for open space acquisition, recreation and water quality protection	0.4 mill	20 yrs.	
OH	Geauga PD	11/7	52%	48%	Property tax increase for park land acquisition, improvement and operation	1 mill	20 yrs.	\$44,700,000
OH	Granville Twp.	11/7	62%	28%	Property tax increase for green space preservation	2.5 mill	5 yrs.	
OH	Green Twp.	11/7	36%	64%	\$4.5 million property tax increase to establish open space trust fund for open space and park lands acquisition	1 mill	5 yrs.	
OH	Licking Co. PD	11/7	45%	55%	\$5.06 million property tax increase for acquisition of park lands and open space	0.2 mill	10 yrs.	
OH	Medina County	3/7	45%	55%	\$36 million sales tax increase for agricultural and conservation easements	1/4 cent	10 yrs.	
OH	Parma	11/7	61%	39%	Bond issue for open space acquisition, recreation, water quality protection, and habitat			\$3,000,000
OH	Portage Co. PD	11/7	49%	51%	Portion of property tax increase to raise \$11.25 million for open space acquisition	1 mill	10 yrs.	
OH	Shelby Co. PD	11/7	42%	58%	Property tax increase for open space and parks acquisition and recreation	0.5 mill	10 yrs.	
OK	Cushing	3/14	68%	32%	Authorization to acquire specific parcel for a park			
OR	Atfalati Rec. Partnership	11/7	46%	54%	Portion of property tax increase to acquire land for open space and recreation	0.75 mill		

State	Jurisdiction	Date	For	Against	Description	Tax Rate	Duration	Total Funds
OR	Blue Heron RD	11/7	45%	55%	\$7.6 million property tax increase for open space acquisition and recreation	0.29 mill	20 yrs.	
OR	Corvallis	11/7	61%	39%	Bond issue for open space acquisition, habitat protection and recreation			\$7,900,000
OR	No. Clackamas P&RD	11/7	50%	50%	\$7.65 million property tax increase for park land acquisition and recreation	0.25 mill	5 yrs.	
OR	Tualatin Hills P&RD	11/7	44%	56%	Portion of property tax increase to raise \$10 million for park land acquisition, trails and preservation	0.42 mill	5 yrs.	
PA	East Bradford Twp.	11/7	67%	33%	Earned income tax increase for purchasing open space	0.125%		\$6,000,000
PA	Hilltown Twp.	11/7	70%	30%	Earned income tax increase for acquisition of open space, conservation easements, PDR, historic lands and recreation	0.25%		\$12,800,000
PA	London-Britain Twp.	11/7	63%	37%	Property tax increase for open space acquisition	0.2 mill		\$720,000
PA	New Britain Twp.	4/5	68%	32%	Earned income tax increase for open space preservation	0.125%		
PA	Springfield Twp.	11/7	49%	51%	\$3 million bond issue for open space acquisition, agricultural easements, PDR, historic lands, and recreation			
PA	Springfield Twp.	11/7	52%	48%	Earned income tax increase for acquisition of open space, conservation easements, PDR, historic lands and recreation	0.25%		\$4,650,000
PA	Upper Makefield Twp.	11/7	66%	34%	Bond issue for acquisition of open space and conservation easements			\$15,000,000
PA	W. Rockhill Twp.	4/5	59%	41%	Earned income tax increase for open space preservation	0.125%		
RI	Statewide	11/7	73%	27%	Bond issue for land acquisition, PDR and recreation			\$34,000,000
RI	Charlestown	11/7	76%	24%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$2,000,000
RI	Cranston	11/7	63%	37%	Bond issue for open space preservation			\$1,000,000
RI	Cumberland	11/7	79%	21%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$1,500,000
RI	Exeter	11/7	74%	26%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$500,000
RI	Foster	11/7	74%	26%	Amendment to Town Charter to grant 100% of real estate transfer tax to Foster Land Trust			
RI	Glocester	11/7	51%	49%	Amendment to Town Charter to grant 75% of real estate transfer tax to Glocester Land Trust			
RI	Glocester	11/7	72%	28%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$500,000
RI	Lincoln	11/7	85%	15%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$1,000,000
RI	Middletown	11/7	70%	30%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$500,000
RI	New Shoreham	11/7	80%	20%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$1,000,000
RI	No. Kingstown	11/7	64%	36%	Bond issue for PDR of open space and farmland			\$4,000,000
RI	Smithfield	11/7	66%	34%	Amendment to Town Charter to grant 1% of town budget surplus to Smithfield Land Trust			
RI	South Kingstown	11/7	80%	20%	Bond issue for open space and agricultural preservation			\$1,000,000
RI	Warwick	11/7	75%	25%	Bond issue for open space preservation and recreation			\$4,000,000
SC	Beaufort Co.	11/7	73%	27%	Bond issue for acquisition of open space and conservation easements			\$40,000,000
SC	Charleston Co.	11/7	50%	50%	Portion of sales and use tax increase to raise \$303 million for open space, farm, and forest lands acquisition	0.5%	25 yrs.	
SC	Charleston Co. P&R	11/7	51%	49%	Bond issue for park acquisition			TBD
SC	Hilton Head	11/7	78%	22%	Bond issue for open space acquisition, recreation, and historic preservation			\$20,000,000
TX	Austin	11/7	65%	35%	Dedicate portion of bond issue for open space and park acquisition			\$13,400,000
TX	El Paso	5/6	64%	36%	Portion of bond issue for park acquisition and recreation			\$4,000,000
TX	San Antonio	5/6	56%	44%	Sales tax increase for watershed acquisition and protection	1/8 cent	4 yrs.	\$65,000,000
VA	Fairfax	11/7	65%	35%	Property tax increase for acquisition of open space and parks	0.5 mill	5 yrs.	\$5,000,000
VA	Henrico	11/7	66%	34%	Bond issue for park land acquisition and recreation			\$16,000,000
VA	Loudoun Co.	11/7	49%	51%	\$7.8 million bond issue for acquisition and development of parks			
VT	Morgan Twp.	9/25	76%	24%	Town meeting appropriation to purchase a specific parcel and donate conservation easement to Vermont Land Trust			\$7,500
WA	Lake Forest Park	11/7	51%	49%	\$3.5 million bond issue for open space acquisition and parks***			
WA	Seattle	11/7	56%	44%	Dedicate portion of property tax increase for open space and park acquisition	0.355 mill	8 yrs.	\$26,000,000
WI	Door Co.	11/7	43%	57%	\$15 million bond issue for open space acquisition and recreation		10 yrs.	
WI	Sheboygan Co.	11/7	69%	31%	Advisory measure to establish fund to protect watersheds, habitat, PDR for agricultural lands and open space, and recreation			

Total funds committed

\$7,494,482,634

* Measure needed 2/3 majority to pass

** \$200 million in bonds is to be spent for conservation purposes and another \$200 million for revitalization purposes, which also include a land acquisition and preservation component

*** Measure needed 60% majority to win

List of abbreviations

Bor.-Borough, Co.-County, MD-Metropolitan District, FPD-Forest Park District, OSD-Open Space District, PD-Park District, PDR-Purchase of Development Rights, P&R-Parks and Recreation, P&RD-Parks and Recreation District, RD-Recreation District, SD-School District, TBD-To Be Determined, Twp.-Township, 1 mill = 1 dollar per \$1,000 of assessed property value

RESIDENTS JOIN TO PROTECT SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTY'S OPEN SPACE

by Cynthia Baysden

Executive Director, Beaufort County Open Land Trust

Travel through Beaufort County, South Carolina, and you'll discover miles of sandy beaches, winding rivers, scenic vistas, and open marshes. Live oaks draped with Spanish moss line the roadways that pass historic homes in the City of Beaufort and the high-end resorts of Hilton Head Island.

Once dependent on fishing, agriculture and lumbering, the county's economy and infrastructure have changed dramatically. Beaufort County's natural beauty and temperate climate has made it one of the fastest growing counties in the country. Its growing pains—traffic congestion, sprawl and loss of natural and agricultural lands—were catalysts for a citizen-led effort to preserve dwindling open spaces and a bond issue approved by 73 percent of county voters in November 2000.

Five years ago, county officials, with the input of thousands of citizens, adopted a vision for the county in a comprehensive plan. One of the plan's primary goals was to preserve open space by purchasing development rights from local landowners. In 1999, the County Council appointed an advisory citizens' board to develop criteria for how this should be done. Three of the advisory board's members also serve on the board of the Beaufort County Open Land Trust.

The missing element was financing. The County Council placed a bond referendum on the ballot to allow the county to borrow \$40 million to preserve land and open space. A citizens' committee was formed to educate the voters on the importance of this issue and to raise funds to finance the campaign. Prominent real estate developers served on the committee and solicited funds from other developers concerned about preserving the county's quality of life. More than \$100,000 was raised from developers, residents and community organizations such as the land trust to pay for the campaign to support the measure. The Trust for Public Land assisted in planning the campaign.

©Tommy Baysden



A community worked together to pass a bond issue to protect critical local wildlife habitat and biological resources like Lemon Island. Beaufort County Open Land Trust purchased the 413-acre island in 1998 to preserve its unique ecosystem and sold the development rights to Beaufort County.

The citizens' committee asked each County Council member to identify residents in their districts who might help on the campaign. The Open Land Trust also invited its members to get involved. A group of 84 volunteers came together to help the campaign effort by passing out flyers, sending mailings, making phone calls and speaking at community gatherings. The volunteers held weekly meetings to coordinate their efforts for the two months before the vote; subcommittees were formed in each council district.

These volunteers were the “eyes and ears” of the campaign in their communities. Public meetings were held in each district to explain the referendum and answer voters' questions. Within six weeks, volunteer speakers addressed 65 public service organizations.

A committee solicited campaign endorsements from diverse groups throughout the area, including Chambers of Commerce, the county's Board of Realtors, municipalities, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, Palmetto Conservation Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and others.

Press conferences highlighted preservation projects—such as the protection of Lemon Island by the Open Land Trust and Beaufort County—that had already been accomplished, and emphasized the need for fast action in the face of skyrocketing property values.

The campaign reached out to inform as many county residents as possible that their quality of life was at risk and that voting “yes” for the referendum could help the country manage its growth. Conservation groups, local government, realtors, developers and private citizens put aside their differences and worked for a common goal—to preserve the special landscapes of Beaufort County.

© Eric Swanson

Less than three miles from Austin, TX, the Barton Creek Wilderness Park includes a greenbelt that begins at Barton Springs, a 1,000-foot-long spring-fed pool that attracts a quarter million visitors every year. In 1992, Austin voters approved a \$20 million bond sale to purchase 572 acres for the park. Since then, the city has added another 312 acres through a series of transactions coordinated by the Trust for Public Land.



GALLATIN COUNTY: A LEADER IN BIG SKY OPEN SPACE PROTECTION

by Debbie Deagen

Executive Director, Gallatin Valley Land Trust

Gallatin County has taken the lead as the first county in Montana to approve public funding for open space. The county, western gateway to Yellowstone National Park, is home to blue ribbon trout streams, wildlife such as wolves and bison, and working ranches and farms. Gallatin County is also the fastest growing urban county in the state of Montana, growing at more than 26 percent in the last decade and losing more than 17,000 acres of prime agricultural and forest land to subdivision in the process.

Gallatin County is increasingly a county of contrasts and rapid change, with \$1 million-plus second homes and gated communities popping up next to wilderness areas, farms and ranches. The County's economy is changing from an agricultural base to a service economy, fueling the demand for residential development and business startups. The county's ranchers (with an average age near 60) need to be able to liquidate some of the assets tied up in their lands for retirement years. Compensation for development rights or easement fees is important for these families, and critical to keeping their lands in production.

To address the loss of working agricultural land in the face of growth pressure, Gallatin County appointed a citizens' open space task force to explore incentive-based tools for protecting open space. After a year researching what other communities have done to protect open space, this task force recommended creating a county Open Lands Board (OLB) and further exploration of a Purchase of Development Rights program. Acting on this recommendation, the Gallatin County Commissioners formed the open lands board to protect agricultural land and placed a bond measure on the ballot to fund land protection.

Gallatin Valley Land Trust



Concerned by the loss of 17,000 acres of prime agricultural and forest land to development, Gallatin County residents approved a \$10 million bond measure in 2000 to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural and recreational lands.

Funding from Gallatin County's Open Space Bond referendum will help compensate agricultural landowners who choose to sell development rights on their land, rather than selling their land to be developed.



Many residents and organizations came together as the Vote Yes for Open Space Campaign Committee and ran a highly effective campaign. The campaign raised \$23,000 from 106 donors from Sept. 8 to Nov. 1, 2000. The committee set up a Web page, produced fact sheets, set up a speaker's bureau, and ran TV, radio and newspaper ads on key campaign issues such as the need to protect the county's water quality, wildlife legacy and agricultural lands.

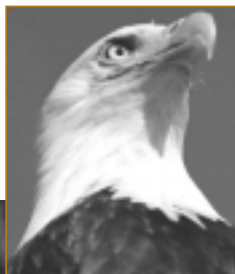
The Gallatin Valley Land Trust (GVLТ) has protected nearly 9,000 acres of prime agricultural land and wildlife habitat through donated easements in its first decade. But, with intense development pressures and low prices for agricultural commodities, donated easements will not be enough to protect working landscapes. Because of the need for stronger conservation tools, GVLТ's Board elected to lobby for the bond measure. GVLТ invested money and staff time assisting with production of campaign brochures, organized public seminars promoting the bond measure in the community and informed its members about the upcoming election. Land trust members also served on the campaign committee.

Many other organizations were crucial to passage of the bond, including the Trust for Public Land, which completed a pre-election survey and provided invaluable campaign advice; and the Sonoran Institute, which helped immensely with fundraising and outreach to the media and the public.

The campaign galvanized an important coalition of groups and residents county-wide to ensure passage of the bond. Residents approved the \$10 million bond measure on Nov. 7, 2000, by a 60 percent margin. The money will be used to purchase land or conservation easements to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural and recreational lands.

A \$10 million investment in open space is no small feat for a county in a state ranked as the fourth poorest in the nation. Passage this bond measure attests to the value that Gallatin County residents place on their extraordinary natural heritage.

An open space bond measure approved in 1998 by residents of Park City, UT, helped the city acquire two ranches at the entryway of the city. By leasing the property as pastureland, the city is helping to preserve its scenic setting as well as its agricultural roots.



© Lou Portnoy



School children from Missouri and Illinois often spot bald eagles from the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River. Closed to automobile traffic in 1969, the one-and-a-half-mile bridge was reopened in 1999 as a bike and pedestrian trail, connecting to paths in St Louis, MO, and Madison, IL. The \$4 million to restore the structure and expand the bi-state greenway came from both states' Departments of Natural Resources, individual and corporate donations, foundations and federal funding under the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21).

Thomas Boccino, Somerset County Park Commission



Voters in 45 New Jersey townships and counties committed public funding in 2000 to protect open lands and parks, such as Sourland Mountain Preserve in Hillsborough, NJ.

The Arizona Open Land Trust helped negotiate the purchase of 746 acres on the outskirts of Tucson, AZ, to expand Pima County's Tucson Mountain Park. Voters in the county approved the acquisition in a 1997 bond election.



Arizona Open Land Trust



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